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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Where do you intend to celebrate Thanksgiving this year?

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INSIDE



Cash Voucher

A Kagman resident gets the first voucher for the CNMI appliance rebate program.

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A young mother and her three small children are found dead inside their home.

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Bieber Sweep

Justin Bieber's first American Music Awards was perfection.

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Still no action plan on DPS, DCCA desk audits. PAGE 3
Probable cause found to charge man in rape of minor. PAGE 7

Body scanner now at NMI airport

» **TSA: Scanner optional; assures privacy**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS

■ A grope too far: Fliers' anger at TSA boils over.
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The controversial full body scanner has come to Saipan.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation and Security Administration unveiled yesterday the scanning machine that will be used to screen pas-

sengers passing through the Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

The machine was officially deployed yesterday at 2pm for departing passengers.

See SCANNER on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lee Cabrera, assistant federal director for the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, explains the functions of a newly installed advanced imaging technology that allows full-body digital x-ray of passengers at the Saipan International Airport yesterday morning, a few hours before it was put to actual use in the CNMI. Inset shows TSA supervisory transportation security officer Emmanuel Ritumalta looking at the captured images on a computer screen of a woman who just went through the full-body scanner, as part of a test run. If a passenger refuses to pass through the new scanner, TSA agents are now allowed to do a very thorough body search of that person.

CUC oil manager resigns; recruits for two top positions reject offers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Getting the most qualified individuals in key positions at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. remains extremely diffi-

cult due to the CNMI's competitive disadvantages, according to acting governor Eloy Inos in his latest emergency declaration for CUC this month.

It was disclosed that two ranking posts were supposed to be filled last month but

Searching for safer skies

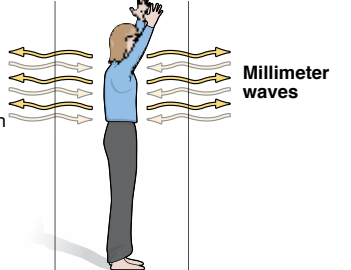
Transportation officials plan to install 1,800 body-scanning machines at U.S. airports. Security experts worry that the devices can't see objects hidden in the groin or inside the body. There is also concern about human failure because they rely on officers viewing monitors to spot prohibited items. Here is how one such device works:

How a millimeter wave body scanner works

1 A person enters the portal and raises both arms in preparation for the scan, which can take as little as four seconds

2 Antennas rotate around the person, emitting beams of radio frequency energy, or millimeter waves, toward the body

3 The millimeter waves bounce off the body and back to receivers, which record the waves and use them to build three-dimensional images



4 Screening officers in a remote location analyze the images, looking for weapons or contraband; the images — with details of faces blurred — are then deleted



Source: Transportation Security Administration, L-3 Security & Detection Systems Inc. Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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About 150 CNMI servicemembers to get care packages

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

About 150 military personnel from the CNMI have already been identified to receive care packages that will be sent out by the Operation CNMI Homefront Support.

American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said the operation is a collaboration between the Red Cross local chapter, Northern Marianas College, Marianas Cable Vision, and IT&E.

Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune* this

See 150 on Page 4

See CUC on Page 4

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Local

Boze withdraws application for NMC presidency

Dr. Betsy Boze, one of the two top picks for the Northern Marianas College presidency, has withdrawn her application following her appointment as president of the College of the Bahamas.

Saipan Tribune learned this yesterday after Boze notified NMC, through an email to its Human Resource Office, that she is withdrawing her application at NMC.

Boze's appointment—to take effect on Jan. 1, 2011—was announced in the College of the Bahamas' web-site.

Boze was among the 12 individuals who applied for the NMC presidency. She and NMC instructor Rik Villegas were eventually selected as

the top two candidates for the post.

Acting board chair Frank Rabauli-man, when contacted yesterday, was not available for comment and did not return this reporter's call.

Board chair Maria Paz Younis, who is off-island, said yesterday that the board will soon issue a formal statement about the matter.

It was learned that a final interview for both Villegas and Boze was initially set early next month.

This leaves NMC with only one top contender for the post—Villegas. It's not yet confirmed if the Board of Regents will push for a final selection despite having only one candidate or extend the search for the position. *(Moneth Deposa)*

Salesman sues ex-employer for alleged unlawful termination

A salesman has sued his former employer for his alleged unlawful termination and for not paying him overtime wages.

Emri Villanueva sued JC Marketing Inc. and its president, Enrique A. Canovas, for bad faith termination, breach of contract, breach of employment, and unpaid regular and overtime wages.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comment from Canovas and JC Marketing yesterday.

Hill stated in the complaint that Canovas verbally told Villanueva on Oct. 5, 2010, that he must resign.

On Oct. 7, 2010, Hill said, JC Marketing informed Villanueva by letter of his early termination due to "inefficiency, unproductive sales and failing the expectations of the company."

Hill said the termination was done without good cause and the reasons cited do not constitute good cause for termination. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

MVA Joins Sora Ike Tabi Fiesta 2010



The Marianas Visitors Authority reached 38,000 potential visitors on one of the most popular shopping streets in Sendai, Japan during the Sora Ike Tabi Fiesta 2010.

Held on Oct. 11-12, 2010, the consumer travel show was organized by the Sendai Airport Internationalization Promotion Committee, sponsored by the Sendai Chamber of Commerce and Japan Association of Travel Agents. The MVA operated a booth and promoted Northern Mariana Islands' attractions in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with informational brochures. Saipan-da stickers were also distributed, and Saipan-da backpacks were given away as lucky draw prizes during the event.



Twenty-nine tourism-related organizations including national tourist offices, local governments, airlines and travel agencies participated in the Fiesta.

In October 2010, the Northern Mariana received 11,279 visitors from Japan, most of them traveling to the island for pleasure, including diving.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

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Still no action plan on DPS, DCCA desk audits

The Fitial administration is still studying the desk audit conducted by Management Analysis Inc. on the departments of Community and Cultural Affairs and Public Safety.

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, press secretary Angel A. Demapan said the Fitial administration is still reviewing the desk audit.

"The governor and lieutenant governor are still in the process of reviewing the lengthy reports received from MAI. Upon completion of review, the administration will then chart its course of action in terms of implementing the recommendations contained therein," he said.

The \$300,000 desk audit conducted by the Virginia-based company revealed that certain divisions at DPS and DCCA are overstaffed, incur lots of overtime costs, have overlapping and duplicative functions, and have positions that are unjustifiable such as a deputy secretary, a special advisor, or a media specialist, among other findings.

MAI provided a long list of recommendations to improve

the efficiency, delivery of services, meet all local and federal laws and regulations, and produce cost savings at DPS and DCCA.

Lawmakers earlier called on the Fitial administration to trim the personnel at the two agencies following the release of the desk audit.

The CNMI government has some 5,000 employees. At least 3,838 are locally funded, based on the fiscal year 2011 budget law.

In an earlier interview, Fitial said if he had his way he would have liked a desk audit to be conducted on the departments of Finance and Public Health

as well, mainly because they are key revenue-generating government agencies.

The Fitial administration still has some \$100,000 in leftover funds from the \$360,000 it got from the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs to conduct the audit. *(Mark Rabago)*

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Thai community celebrates Loi Krathong

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Candles were lighted and set adrift as members of the Thai community on Saipan celebrated the Loi Krathong Festival on the evening of Nov. 21 at the beach across Wild Bill's.

Dubbed as Thailand's Festival of Lights, Loi Krathong is an annual celebration that takes place on the evening of the full moon of the 12th month in the traditional Thai lunar calendar, which falls in November.

During the night of the full moon,

Thai nationals make a wish as they float their krathong or ornately decorated candles and incense sticks on any expanse of water such as a river or ocean.

People who participate in the popular Thai festival, believed to have originated in an ancient practice of deference to the spirit of the waters, receive good fortune and boost their chances of getting their wish granted.

Malijan Pino, who was among those who celebrated the event, told *Saipan Tribune* that the festival is very significant for their people as it recognizes the

importance of water in people's lives.

Pino said that aside from putting a strand of hair, clipped nails or a coin in their krathong, they also leave all bad things in their life in the krathong so that all negative vibes will be taken by the water and replaced with good luck.

Pino, who has been on Saipan for 14 years, said she always takes part in the Loi Krathong celebration with her Thai friends. She said she used to celebrate the festival with her family in Thailand.

"I wished that all the bad things in my life will go away and more good things will happen in my life," she said.

Siwanat Sanprasert, who has only been on Saipan for a year, said she celebrated Loi Krathong for the first time here.

According to Sanprasert, the festival celebration on Saipan is also the same in Thailand.

As she launched her candle into the sea, Sanprasert said she also wished for the water to take away the bad things in her life and bring her good fortune.



CLARISSA DAVID

Thai nationals celebrate the Loi Krathong Festival on the evening of Nov. 21 on the beach across Wild Bill's in Garapan.

'DPS promotions will continue despite austerity measures'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Notwithstanding the government's austerity measures, promotions at the Department of Public Safety will continue, according to attorney Robert T. Torres.

Torres said the lawsuit filed by Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero against DPS has unmasked, among other things, the fact that promotions are still happening despite the austerity measures.

The Office of the Attorney General insists, however, that DPS has remained in compliance with the austerity measures.

Assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel Shearer said that Deleon Guerrero and the 25 other police officers who joined in the lawsuit fail to distinguish between promotional practices and hiring practices.

In court documents supporting Deleon Guerrero's motion for summary judgment, Torres, counsel for Deleon Guerrero, said "everyone loses when rules protecting fairness are abandoned and when salary increases are doled out without regard to fair and just promotion procedures."

Torres said bringing grievances to disclose these acts stands as a bulwark

to protect the public interest.

"Awarding promotions only those who are deemed loyal, to friends on the outside, or to those who are related by blood enables those who continue to act in the dark and without transparency, so long as those having the courage to come forward are deterred by being forced to shoulder the costs of governmental compliance alone," Torres said.

He said the facts confirm that DPS has restricted promotions under the guise of austerity measures when, in actuality, it either "reallocates" existing personnel or resorts to "provisional appointments" and "probationary employment" to bypass merit system protections and restricts DPS Civil Service employees from being promoted to higher positions.

Torres said DPS could have put an end to this litigation early on by simply addressing and responding to Deleon Guerrero's grievances.

"Instead, it did nothing. Actually, DPS ignored the grievance," he said.

Second, Torres said, the government's claim that it voluntarily fixed what needed fixing is "an outright strained exercise in mendacity."

"Just because DPS conducted an audit does not mean that it solved the

problem. The problems remain unabated," Torres said.

In DPS' reply, Shearer pointed out that the financial austerity measure deals with promotions and not hiring practices.

Shearer, counsel for DPS, said Deleon Guerrero does not seem to understand that "provisional appointments," "probationary employment," or hiring in general do not violate the austerity measure; nor do established exceptions to the austerity measure.

Shearer cited an example in which the appellants point to a memorandum dated March 26, 2010, from the Office of Management and Budget to the DPS commissioner about additional requests for promotion and reallocation.

"While one could easily construe the documents as showing a violation of the austerity measure, such a construction would be incorrect," she said.

Shearer admitted that the documents were drafted with the intent of making additional promotions. "However, the actions were halted when astute employees alerted upper management that the actions would be in violation of the austerity measure," said Shearer, citing the declaration of Office of Personnel Management director Isidro K. Seman.

These packages contain assorted items such as cookies from Herman's Bakery and Joeten Hafa Adai Bakery, dried mangoes, Spam, ramen and soba, rice crackers, Saipan maps, and issues of *Beach Road* magazine and newspapers.

Hirsh said the packages will also include blank cards courtesy of the Saipan Stampers and over 1,000 handmade cards from elementary students on island.

"The goal is to bring these soldiers the island flavors they miss when they are away from home," he said.

Hirsh said they will be going to dif-

ferent stores on island that served as drop-off centers for donated items today and tomorrow.

He said the care packages will be put together on Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe starting at 8:30am. Hirsh said they are seeking for more volunteers to be part of the assembly line in Saturday's activity.

He said they are still accepting donations and names of soldiers who would like to be included in the list of care package recipients.

For more information, contact the American Red Cross at 234-3459.

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From Page 1

will be the third time they will be sending out care packages to the men and women of the CNMI who are in the nation's armed forces.

Hirsh said they hope to send some 200 care packages, half of which will be dispatched to the mainland and Hawaii while the other half will be in military locations across the globe, including Korea, Japan, Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Germany.

CUC

From Page 1

Inos, in the 30-page declaration issued Monday, cited the salary and benefit packages and the distance from the U.S. mainland as among the Commonwealth's competitive disadvantages.

He said the challenge to CUC is that it is recruiting for positions from a U.S. labor pool in which the targeted candidates are already gainfully employed as opposed to other professionals.

"In October 2010, the top candidate for manager of drinking water and wastewater turned down CUC's offer. The targeted recruit for the health, safety, and environment officer also turned down a CUC offer. This month,

November 2010, CUC's oil manager resigned," the document states.

CUC said that there are not enough U.S. citizen or U.S.-resident technical specialists at the agency to get the power generation work done, particularly specialists with experience in the type of engines that CUC uses.

CUC, in the latest emergency declaration, believes that a vast majority of skill sets must come from the non-U.S. personnel.

"CUC has tried to hire diesel mechanics in the CNMI, but has been unsuccessful in finding all the qualified candidates," it said, adding that although some local staff positions have been filled, hiring qualified technical experts remains difficult.

CUC said it will need more staff to

operate and maintain power plants and needs to maintain skilled workers. In the meantime, it continues to work with the Northern Marianas Trade Institute to find local trainees, part of a multi-year apprenticeship program.

"CUC has had about a dozen of these trainees, but requires fully trained, experienced technicians to keep the power plants running," the document states.

CUC has been in state of emergency since August 2008 due to its poor services and the sad condition of its infrastructure. These deficiencies have resulted in CUC being hauled to court by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. CUC is now the subject of two stipulated orders that require it to comply with federal standards.

SCANNER

From Page 1

Just before that, Lee Cabrera, assistant federal security director/screening, demonstrated how the machine works and the enhanced screening procedures at the airport.

Lee said the scanner is optional for all passengers. Those who opt not to be scanned will be subjected to a thorough pat-down by a same gender security officer using the back of the hand for private parts and the palms of the hands for the rest of the body.

TSA also provides a private screening room for those passengers who may wish to be screened in a private space.

TSA said the advanced imaging technology, or AIT, safely screens passengers for metallic and nonmetallic threats including weapons, explosives and other objects concealed under layers of clothing without physical contact to help TSA keep the traveling public safe.

TSA uses two types of advanced imaging technology in airports nationwide: millimeter wave technology and backscatter technology. For the CNMI, the TSA installed one that uses the backscatter technology.

Backscatter technology projects low level X-ray beams over the body to create a reflection of the body displayed on the monitor while millimeter wave technology bounces harmless electromagnetic waves off the body to create a black and white three-dimensional image. Backscatter technology produces an image that resembles a chalk etching.

Before going through the scanner, passengers will be required to remove items such as accessories, wallet, belt, money, keys, cell phone, and others, Cabrera said.

After taking everything out, the passenger will be directed to walk into the imaging portal. Once inside, they will be asked to stand with arms raised and remain still for a few seconds while the scanner creates an image of the passenger. A remotely located officer views the image.

Cabrera assured that the officer looking at the passengers' image cannot see them, so any irregularity that appears on the screen will require inspection to determine what it is.

"The image record is presented only for that particular screening process and thereafter will not be restored or reproduced in any form," said Cabrera, adding that images will be automatically deleted after the screening process. Additionally, there is a privacy algorithm applied to blur the image, he said.

At present, the Saipan airport has two screening lanes: one for the scanner and one for walk-through passengers who opt for the pat-down procedure.

Cabrera said all TSA employees will undergo special training for the scanner to ensure that they are fully trained and properly certified.

'Safety and health'

According to Cabrera, passengers who will go through the scanner will be exposed to a low-level X-ray beam for about 5 to 7 seconds, equivalent to only about 2 to 3 minutes of radiation exposure during a regular flight.

According to TSA website, backscatter technology projects an ionizing X-ray beam over the body surface at high speed. The reflection, or "backscatter," of the beam is detected, digitized and displayed on a monitor. Each full body scan produces less than 10 microREM of emission, the equivalent to the exposure each person receives in about 2 minutes of airplane flight at altitude. It produces an image that resembles a chalk-etching, and has a privacy filter applied to the entire body.

"This technology has undergone a series of tests and results are conclusive that it poses no danger to even the higher risk category of passengers such as pregnant women, infants, children, persons with implants or pacemaker and others," explained Cabrera.

Saipan Tribune learned that the installation of the equipment has been in the works for about six months.

Given the space limitation at the airport, Cabrera said they don't foresee the need for more units at the Saipan airport in the near future.

Saipan Tribune learned that a similar scanner will also be installed at the Guam airport soon.

Currently, there are 385 advanced imaging technology machines in 68 airports nationwide. They have been the subject of complaints and criticisms by passengers and pilots.

San Nicolas leads Chacha's 7 outstanding employees

**San Nicolas****Saures****Gonzales****Sablan****Celis****Taitano****Dela Cruz**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven individuals have been chosen as this year's outstanding personnel of the Chacha Oceanview Junior High School.

Joseph San Nicolas was adjudged as the teacher of the year; Alingmal Saures is the school's teacher aide of the

year; Susan Gonzales is the instructor of the year; Carmen Sablan was named counselor of the year; Ike Celis was named the support staff of the year; Mary Jane Taitano was selected as the administrative staff of the year; and Vince Dela Cruz is the principal of the year.

All seven awardees will vie

for the overall title this month during the Public School System awarding rites for all 85 nominees in various categories.

This year's outstanding teacher, San Nicolas has been with the school for six years now. His colleagues said he has an effective teaching system and truly works for his students.

Seventh and eighth graders said San Nicolas always inspires students to do their best and has built personal relationships with individual students.

Teacher aide Saures has been with Chacha Oceanview for seven years. He was described as someone who goes out of his way to help others and performs more than his assigned duties.

Instructor of the year Gonzales has been serving Chacha students for three years. She is the school's Chamorro Language Heritage Studies mentor.

"She is very outgoing and has a pleasant personality. She is well respected by her students and colleagues," one of her co-teachers said.

Sablan, the school's coun-

selor of the year, was lauded for her valuable advice to students.

Celis was recognized for his tremendous contributions as this year's maintenance of the year awardee.

Also selected nominees for this year's award were Vince Dela Cruz as principal of the year and Mary Jane Taitano as administrative staff of the year.

CDA sues 5 to collect \$121,000 in unpaid loan, interest charges

The Commonwealth Development Authority has sued five persons to collect over \$121,000 in unpaid loan, penalty charges, and legal fees.

CDA sued Theresita B. Pangelinan, Josephine B. Pangelinan, Tracy B. Pangelinan, Melissa P. McConnell, and Catherine B. Pangelinan.

CDA, through counsel F. Matthew Smith, asked the Superior Court to order Theresita Pangelinan pay \$121,512.29 in principal sum, accrued interest, penalty charges, and legal fees.

CDA asked the court to order the sale of the mortgaged real property and the proceeds be applied as payment.

CDA extended a \$120,000 commercial loan to Theresita Pangelinan on July 14, 1994. Theresita and her co-defendants mortgaged to CDA their interest in the 293 square meters of real property in Chalan Kanoa 3 to

secure the loan.

On Aug. 28, 1998, the City Trust Bank extended a commercial loan/line of credit to Theresita Pangelinan in the principal amount of \$15,000, Smith said.

In order to secure the City Trust loan, CDA guaranteed to pay the bank all amounts due by Theresita Pangelinan should she default in the payment.

Smith said as of Oct. 26, 2010, Theresita Pangelinan owed CDA the principal sum of \$13,217.83, plus accrued interest of \$11,164.85, plus penalty charges of \$668.60, plus legal fees of \$72.34 or for a total of \$25,123.62. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Life in Motion

Kagman resident gets first voucher for appliance rebate program



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Staff of the CNMI Energy Division presented a voucher issued under the Energy Star Rebate Program to its first recipient in a ceremony yesterday morning at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

Staff members of the CNMI Energy Division Office pose with acting governor Eloy S. Inos, front, second from right, and Department of Public Works Secretary Martin C. Sablan, front, second from left, after the presentation of the \$300 refrigerator voucher to Kagman resident Alex Aguon Aldan, front, leftmost, at the Governor's conference room in Capital Hill yesterday.

CLARISSA DAVID

Kagman resident Alex Aguon Aldan received the \$300 voucher from Energy Director Thelma B. Inos and acting governor Eloy S. Inos. He said he would use it to replace his refrigerator.

The Energy Star Rebate Program is an incentive program for CNMI households to replace their old, inefficient appliances with qualified and energy-efficient Energy Star products.

The program, open to everyone regardless of income on a first-come-first-served basis, is funded by the CNMI Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Inos told *Saipan Tribune* this is the first time the rebate program is funded by the block grant. The first rebate program, the State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program, was subsidized by federal funds from the U.S. Department of Energy.

"Because of the success of the first rebate program, we decided to open up \$100,000 more for the Energy Star Rebate Program," she said.

Although they set the cap at \$100,000, Inos said they can increase the ceiling depending on the community's reception.

Vince T. Palacios, program coordinator for the Energy Star Rebate Program, said they began accepting applications for the program on Oct. 27.

Palacios said households may be awarded up to \$1,400 worth of vouchers to replace old refrigerators, clothes washer, and air-conditioning units.

He said this will be the first time that they are giving away vouchers of up to \$400 for split-

type air-conditioning units.

Palacios said the vouchers can be used to purchase Energy Star appliances from seven approved vendors on island: Ace Hardware, Yco Hardware, Taro Sue, Advance Care, Pacific Homes, Gree Aircon, and Pacific Chang Hong.

Tinian and Rota

Inos noted, though, that the program will not be extended to Tinian and Rota residents due to some difficulties encountered in the previous program.

According to Inos, funding for the first rebate program was not exhausted because they had to deal with issues such as vendor availability on the two islands.

The unavailability of recycling centers for the replaced appliances on the two islands was also a problem, Palacios said.

Weatherization program

Aside from the rebate program, Inos said their office also received an ARRA grant for an income bracket-based program called the Residential Weatherization Program. It aims to retrofit residential houses by replacing inefficient appliances and lightings with efficient ones to reduce energy consumption.

Inos said application forms for the two programs are available at their website, www.cnmienergy.com, or at the Energy Division Office located at House No. 1337 on Capital Hill.

Contact Vince T. Palacios for more information about the Energy Star Rebate Program and David V. Ada, Jr. for questions about the Residential Weatherization Program at 664-4480 or 81.

If you listen closely the turkey is really saying "Buckle-Buckle-Buckle."

Buckle up this Thanksgiving.



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Probable cause found to charge man in rape of minor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court found yesterday probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against a 44-year-old man who stands accused of repeatedly raping a female minor since she was 10 years old.

During the preliminary hearing, associate judge David A.

Wiseman determined that there is probable cause to believe that the crimes of sexual assault in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, child abuse, obstructing justice, and disturbing the peace were committed and that Mekin Junior Joseph may have committed these offenses.

Wiseman ordered Joseph to

answer the charges in court and set the arraignment for Nov. 29, 2010.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher called to the witness stand detective Melissa Bauleong, who narrated to the court how an anonymous call led to the investigation and subsequent arrest of Joseph.

Joseph is still in jail after failing

to post a \$100,000 cash bail.

Assistant public defender Richard Miller is counsel for the defendant.

In her report, Bauleong said she received a call on Nov. 12,

2010, from an anonymous person who reported a sexual abuse case in Kagman.

Bauleong said the Division of Youth Services started investigating the case after she informed it

about the call.

The detective said the 14-year-old girl confessed to a DYS social worker that Joseph has been raping her since she was 10 years old.

Soldiers, reservists get updates on Tricare benefits

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the U.S. Army Reserve 302nd Quartermaster Company and the 100th Battalion 4-42 Infantry and their family members learned about the health care program called Tricare during town hall meetings held from Nov. 19 to 21.

"Tricare is a military health care program that provides medical benefits for Guards and Reservists, retirees, and their families," Alysha M. Pacheco, Tricare contact representative from Okinawa, said in an interview after the meeting.

Pacheco said Tricare has 10 main programs and eight special programs under it that assist military men and women in their medical needs.

Pacheco told *Saipan Tribune* that the program replaced the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services during the late '90s.

Pacheco said Friday's meeting

for Tricare providers on Saipan was held at the U.S. Army Reserve Center. The sessions on Saturday and Sunday focused on beneficiaries and were held at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center.

"We met with providers to educate them about the claims process and [with] beneficiaries to address any concerns regarding the Tricare program," said Pacheco.

According to her, the need for Tricare meetings stemmed from the Veterans Affairs town hall meeting in March.

"Tricare ended up as the main topic during that meeting so Col. Mike Phipps and I requested for a separate meeting discussing the program," she said.

Pacheco said the weekend meetings were the second for the year. The first Tricare meeting was held in July.

Pacheco said they are looking at holding a Tricare meeting every six months to help keep the communication lines open between the office, beneficiaries,

and providers.

"The meeting is also a way to inform Guards and Reservists about new programs and help them get better access to health care," she said, adding that with the island's location, regular meetings are beneficial, particularly for program members.

Phipps said providing information about the program, addressing concerns and issues, as well as knowledge on how to access the Tricare website help soldiers understand the program better to help keep them and their families medically fit.

According to Phipps, there have been developments since they started conducting the Tricare meetings on Saipan, including the creation of the Hawaii Satellite Office and electronic filing of claims for providers on island.

Through the meetings, Pacheco said they will be able to institute changes in the system to provide consistency in access and service for all soldiers anywhere in the world.



SUSTAINABLE SHRIMP FARM

Aquaculture farmer Pete Arriola gestures as he talks about his tilapia and shrimp farms during the Field & Media Day on Nov. 18. The event was organized by the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services to promote sustainability in aquaculture production on island.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



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Grazing, livestock workshop on Tinian, Rota

The Northern Marianas College's Marianas Grazing and Livestock Academy will host another series of workshops on the islands of Rota on Dec. 3-4, 2010, and Tinian on Dec. 10-11, 2010. Both workshops will be held on the NMC instructional sites. Registration begins at 7:30am with

instructional activities to follow from 8am to 4pm each day.

The Academy is aimed at building local agricultural capacity and educating farmers and ranchers about increasing the economic viability of their products.

The workshops will cover various topics, such as reproductive management, planning and artificial insemination, replacement heifer selection criteria, production risk management, ranch planning and monitoring, meat goat management, pastured poultry management, and more. The workshops will also include visits to farms and demonstration sites, as well as field activities.

The Academy, a project organized through a collaborative effort between the NMC-Coop-

erative Research Extension and Education Service's Livestock Improvement Program, and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam, seeks to enhance the production of high quality meat products, which can serve to improve food sustainability through the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices in grazing and livestock management.

The Academy also seeks to assist and guide farmers, ranchers, technical resource personnel, and other interagency collaborators in planning and developing special local projects to improve the economic viability of grazing activities in

the CNMI.

To register for the workshops on Tinian or for more information, contact Lawrence Duponcheel at 433-0639 or Dr. Allan Sabaldica at 433-2576. To register for the workshops on Rota or for more information, contact Alejandro Badilles at 532-9513. There are no registration or participation fees.

For additional information on the Academy, visit www.marianasgrazingacademy.org.

The Marianas Grazing Academy project has been made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers program, grant #2009-51200-19601. (NMC)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to our little angel, Jaelexiz Z. Torres, who turns 2 today! More blessings on your special day baby and we love you so much. Greetings coming out from Niña Jo and family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Kimo C. Reyes. We love and miss you! Greetings come from uncle Pong, Mommy, Jun, and Celina.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy, happy birthday to our little *ahine*, Sadia Fred Rahman, who turns 4 today! We wish you many more *maha-maha* birthdays to come. Love you always, aunts Jo, Jen and the whole family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to our sweet and loving friend Cecil Bungcaras! Wishing you good health, happiness and more birthdays to come! Lots of love from Maricar, Shiela, Sky, Joecly, and Papa Tedy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 1st Hawaiian birthday to Mary Audrey! With much love, from Papa, Mama, Kuya, Tito, Tita, and Lolo.

NEWS BRIEFS

3-hour power outage on Friday

There will be a three-hour power outage this Friday, Nov. 26, 2010, affecting some residents in San Vicente and Papago, according to a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. statement yesterday.

The outage from 1pm to 4pm is intended to allow the Hawaiian Rock field crews to safely work near the primary lines as they install three traffic light poles on Isa Drive near the San Vicente church, CUC said.

Areas that will be affected are from the former Adventure Store, Upper San Vicente, Happy Landing, Taturam to the Botanical Garden in Papago. (CUC)

Rakina Joy Chong fundraiser postponed

The scheduled fundraising for Rakina Joy Chong, which was supposed to be raffled on Nov. 20, 2010, was postponed to Dec. 18, 2010, because half of the tickets are still pending and family and friends requested for extension of drawing. The raffle drawing will still be held in the same place, the Kilili Beach Park, and same time, 1pm.

"Thank you very much for your kind understanding and for your continued support. My wish is for me to be back before Christmas to be with my family and friends. Please continue your prayers for my fast recovery," said Rakina Joy Chong. (PR)



TOOTHBRUSHES FOR SOLDIERS

Northern Marianas College students pose for a group photo with Dr. Crystal Edminister, fourth from left, and staff members of the Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic. The clinic recently donated 250 toothbrushes and toothpaste to the Operation CNMI Homefront Support Group. The items will be included in the care packages that the group will send to deployed U.S. soldiers from the CNMI. The Operation CNMI Homefront Support Group is inviting the community to take part in assembling the care packages on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010, at the Multi-Purpose Center starting at 8:30am. Community members can still submit names and addresses of deployed soldiers by emailing Geri Willis (homefront@pticom.com) who will arrange to have the care packages sent.

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

Happy anniversary to John and Maria Sablan! May God bless the two of you and may the both of you be filled with joy and love! We love you! Greetings come from your children, grandchildren, friends, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 23, 1999

Teno to mediate in SBDC squabble

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio will meet separately with the board of the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents in his effort to quash "infighting" over the local Small Business Development Center. He said there are some concerns raised about the funding issue which he would be discussing with officials to shed light on the controversy surrounding the transfer of NMC-SBDC to CDA. "This kind of thing should be resolved internally... Just sit down and try to resolve the issue. They don't have to fight. We don't need infighting between the agencies," Mr. Tenorio told reporters in an interview yesterday.

Gov't vows to settle retirement obligation

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio welcomed yesterday the decision by the NMI Retirement Fund Board to scrap a recommendation to increase by two percent the government's contribution for the nearly 5,000-strong public sector employees. He underscored, however, his efforts to meet the mounting obligations of his administration to the Fund, saying he wants to make sure that it is solvent and that retirees get their pension pay. "I'm pleased to hear that because sometimes the news media carry and put out misleading information," Tenorio told reporters when sought for comment, taking potshots at earlier erroneous reports claiming the Fund would implement the contribution hike before yearend.

Nov. 23, 2000

Warning raised on spread leptospirosis

The Saipan Mayor's Office has taken an active role against the spread of leptospirosis on island by forming an interdepartmental rodent control task force. Health experts believe one of the most probable means the fatal disease is spread is through rodents. The newly-established task force has been assigned to coordinate a program to tackle an island-wide rodent eradication. The group composed of members from various agencies will be using traps, poison, and other methods to bring the rodent population down. "We need the help and cooperation of all citizens to make this effort a success. I am calling on all island residents to take precautions to prevent the spread of this disease," said Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan.

Internet usage in NMI growing slowly

Since its birth in the late 1970s, outgrowing what was then called the ARPANET, the Internet has drawn millions of users throughout the world but browsers from the Northern Marianas are increasing rather slowly. Kerry Deets, GTE Pacifica staff administrator for marketing and communications, said Internet usage throughout the Northern Marianas is still low compared with other countries but added that the CNMI is trying to catch up to the technology. Published surveys on Internet usage disclosed there are over 377 million people all over the world logging on to the Internet each day as of September 2000 and technology experts predict the number to grow leaps before the end of the year.

Nov. 23, 2001

CNMI wants a slice of cruise market

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is hoping to lure tourists traveling by sea, which is expected to grow by 10 percent each year. Officials anticipate a 10 percent increase in the cruise liner industry each year, and a continued growth in the next 20 years. In North America alone, there are 2.5 million travelers. Of this, 80 percent are repeaters and 40 percent go to Vancouver, Alaska, Europe, Japan and other regions. CPA wants the Northern Marianas to be included in the diverse list of cruise itineraries. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the ports authority would be working closely with the Marianas Visitors Authority to include the CNMI in the list of destinations cruise ships can visit.

'Teachers create strong impact on students'

A doctor of Sociology gave credence Wednesday to the vital role a teacher plays in the life a student, citing a recent study conducted on 1,800 local students. Social Scientist Dr. Debra Cabrera, in a keynote address to public school teachers this week, reaffirmed that teachers impact students' lives beyond the parameters of academics. The sociologist, with aid from the private and public education sectors, stumbled upon this finding in the process of trying to figure out the impact of social bonds on delinquency in and out of the school environment.



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Training better teachers

By CAMILLE ESCH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It seems everyone is down on bad teachers these days. But the truth is that simply removing the bad apples won't fix our education problems. After all, it's not as if there's a large pool of superstar teachers waiting to replace those who are weeded out. Our best hope to improve education broadly and deeply is to strengthen the programs that develop and prepare the vast majority of the nation's teachers.

Unfortunately, many of those systems are in sorry shape. Research has found that teacher preparation programs across the country frequently have low admissions requirements, low exit criteria and a lack of academic rigor. Certainly there are some strong and innovative teacher training programs. But the vast bulk of teachers receive training that is disconnected from what they will experience in actual classrooms.

Coursework tends to be long on theory and short on practical training in such essentials as classroom management and how to actually teach specific subjects. The result is that beginning teachers often walk into their new schools with very little idea how to handle and teach a classroom full of kids.

This lack of preparation is unlikely to be measured—or even noticed. Few teacher education programs measure their graduates' success as teachers, or ask graduates or their employers to evaluate the quality or relevance of their preparation. Most school districts have no system in place for evaluating how new teachers from one program compare to those from another. Accreditation agencies monitor program quality at the institutions that train teachers, but they're funded by the very universities they're evaluating and tend to focus more on program design and materials rather than actual outcomes. Although states are supposed to identify and assist programs that are low performing, they rarely do. Out of more than 1,400 colleges of education across the nation, states identify only 38 as having low-performing programs. That doesn't square with the widespread quality concerns raised by outside observers.

About a dozen years ago, Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., led a federal effort to establish a better quality-control system for teacher preparation programs. After a long and controversial battle with universities, he succeeded in getting a federal requirement that education schools must report certain outcomes, such as how many program completers pass teacher licensure tests. But that kind of information, besides being wildly inconsistent across states, says almost nothing about whether graduates are effective teachers.

Certainly the government shouldn't determine exactly what is taught, or how, in education schools. But given the well-documented importance of teacher quality to educational success, government support for education schools should be leveraged to require colleges to get serious about teacher preparation.

That would mean tracking more meaningful measures of success, including information about whether graduates actually get (and keep) teaching jobs, what beginning teachers and their employers think of the quality of their preparation, and whether their teaching has a measurable effect on the achievement of students in the classroom. This kind of information would be invaluable to programs seeking to innovate, and to prospective teachers seeking an effective training program.

Sound impossible? It's not. Louisiana has developed a strong data system that allows it to track where graduates of different preparation programs go and what kind of effect they have on

See TRAINING on next page



Child Status Protection Act: Preserving derivative status, and another way to look at the Visa Bulletin

"[The Child Status Protection Act] facilitates and hastens the re-uniting of legal immigrants' families. It is family-friendly legislation that is in keeping with our proud traditions."

—Statement of Rep. James Sensenbrenner in support of CSPA prior to its passage in 2002

From its passage in 2002 until now, the USCIS has never issued so much as a memo explaining how to interpret the "automatic conversion" clause of the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA). They left it to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to explain this in Matter of Wang in 2009. The USCIS argued that the clause be interpreted in the most restrictive way possible, and surprisingly, the Board bought their argument.

—Immigration attorney Carl Shusterman, Why Matter of Wang Got It Wrong—Four Fallacies, in 2010

For today's column, we will start with a question brought to us last week, and then take another look at the monthly Visa Bulletin.

Question: My grandmother is a U.S. citizen. In 1992 she petitioned my father for a green card. At that time I was 12 years old, and I was included as my father's derivative beneficiary child. The petition was approved in 1993, but my father could not become a permanent resident until 2005, when I was 23 and no longer eligible to be a derivative. My father filed a new petition for me in 2005, as his unmarried adult son. Can I keep my original priority date, which would make me eligible to process my green card now, or am I stuck with the date my father filed the second petition, which means I will have to wait for years to be able to adjust status?

At the moment, the answer is that you are stuck with the second petition's priority date, and will have to wait. But there is nationwide litigation on this exact topic, including an appeal now before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that, if successful, may radically change the current interpretation used by USCIS. (The CNMI is part of the Ninth Circuit.) Before discussing how the law applies to you, we need to summarize the current state of affairs.

The CSPA formula for preserving status

We are all familiar with the often absurdly long times between the date a petition is filed for anyone who does not qualify as the immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, and the date the beneficiary of that petition can actually complete the application process and obtain a green card. The Child Status Protection Act, or CSPA, was intended to provide some relief to families caught in these administrative delays.

The CSPA was enacted in 2002 with the stated purpose of preserving the immigrant visa (green card) eligibility of people who were classified as children (unmarried and under 21) under the Im-

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and
BRUCE MAILMANSpecial to the
Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

migration & Nationality Act, or INA, at the time when immigrant visa petitions were filed for them—either as principal or derivative beneficiaries—but who turned 21 ("aged out" in USCIS-speak) before their visas became available.

It is worth noting that the CSPA does not just apply to family-based immigration, but also applies to spouses and children of principal beneficiaries of employment-based petitions and diversity lottery visas. Today, however, we will concentrate on application of the CSPA to family-based immigration. There is an excellent detailed discussion of the CSPA and its application to different beneficiary classes in the appellants' opening brief in *Cuellar De Osorio v. Mayorkas*, a major CSPA case now on appeal before the Ninth Circuit, which can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/2e2uomv>.

Whether the beneficiary's "child" status is preserved is determined first by calculating whether the beneficiary still can be considered to be "under 21." If so, the beneficiary must "seek to acquire" permanent resident status within one year of the date the visa becomes available.

There are three key dates in this calculation: (1) the "priority date," which is the date on which an Form I-130 Petition for Alien Relative was filed with USCIS; (2) the date the I-130 was approved; and (3) the date a visa becomes available. Note that unless you are the immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, the I-130 approval date is not the same as the date that a visa becomes available. Rather, approval of the I-130, which usually happens relatively quickly, is just the first step. After the I-130 is approved, the beneficiary must wait until a visa is available as USCIS works through its backlog of applications, before the beneficiary can file an I-485 Application to Adjust Status in order to obtain a green card.

The formula is simple: subtract the time between the date the I-130

See CHILD on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Potential revenue in the CNMI from VLT

Fourth part of a series

So far, we have taken a look at a brief overview of the known effects of video lottery terminal, or VLT, gambling that is proposed to be introduced to the CNMI by Pacific Entertainment Technology. And, so far, we have heard little or no real information being offered by P.E.T. As to just what its intentions are, what it seeks to accomplish (and how) and what it plans to offer the CNMI in order to justify the planned introduction. It has all been very quiet, yet both the Attorney General’s Office and the Department of Finance in demure, unassuming and brief statements indicate they have been working on “regulations” and the “go” light may soon be issued. In fact, at least one machine is already here!

I was under the impression that “regulations” are supposed to go through a public hearing process and comment period. What happened? What are the proponents (and these government offices) afraid of? This whole process now leads me to believe there is a lot more than meets the eye here and the result is a lot more questions than answers.

Anyway, let’s take a closer look at local prospects. P.E.T. plans to introduce 750 VLT units. Currently, there are about 791 “slots” in the CNMI (roughly 680 on Saipan, 52 on Tinian, and 59 on Rota). Thus P.E.T. plans to just about *double* the number of playing units available and, I suspect, they expect to acquire about half of all the gambling “take” in the CNMI; and further, that the gambling take will increase even more due to the combined presence of existing and new units. But will it? Have the proponents studied all the consequences of such a large impingement on the community and compared that to the demographics

of the gambling phenomenon? Is more always really more?

We have already seen that the most probable effect is that up to 40 percent or more of local gamblers will shift from existing poker units to the new VLTs (at least at first), thus reducing the “take” from existing units and in the process drastically reducing revenues from poker currently relied upon by local municipalities for scholarships or other local funding. But that’s only splitting up existing volume; where does P.E.T. expect to obtain the rest of its needed revenue? We have also seen that, in general, gamblers from outside the local region simply do not travel long distances to visit standalone VLT units. Therefore, a large influx of cross border gamblers should not be expected. After all, Saipan (and the CNMI) has not exactly developed the kind of attractions (and entertainment climate) that anyone would be attracted to anyway as indicated by severely depressed tourist arrivals and the virtual nonexistence of tourist gambling at existing units.

There is yet another effect well known among experienced gamblers: They “vote”! In other words, gamblers have a keenly developed sense about “payoffs”. They *know* (or quickly determine) where the machines are that have the best daily payouts. In Nevada, the average daily payout per machine is about \$90, one of the lowest in the nation. In Maryland, that payout is about \$235, one of the highest in the nation. *But*, these two states are *very* far apart and sport drastic differences in the type of unique gambling excitement they offer, so gamblers do not *freely* “vote” (with their feet) and bounce from one side of the border to the other. The CNMI is not so fortunate—it’s a standalone unit. Has P.E.T. determined what daily payoff rate they will set? What attractiveness they will offer? Will they let us know?

In the CNMI, under present proposals, there will be two competing sets of machines, all the poker units versus all the VLTs. They will, in effect, compete. Good for the gamblers, not so good for the state. P.E.T. *must* set its daily payout rate higher to draw gamblers away from competition. To do that the percentage payout *must* be higher, thus reducing the percentage left over for revenue *and* reducing the take available for the state. Gamblers will vote with their feet. Without any expected influx of outside gamblers (and there is *no* reason to expect any), will there be an increase in *overall* gambling revenue? I think not.

Now here’s the “caution” in all this: There is only one way that the owners of P.E.T. can expect a reasonable profit by doubling the number of standalone gambling units in a place like the CNMI. They *must* somehow put all (or nearly all) of the existing units (poker) *out of business*! I’m not saying this might not be a good thing, though! How? Remember, gamblers vote with their feet and the owners of P.E.T. are *highly connected* politically. It wouldn’t take much for these owners to persuade legislators to impose such restrictions (or outright bans) that local poker parlors would simply be run out of business—quickly. What’s the downside to this? After all, it doesn’t sound like such a bad idea after all, or is it?

Tomorrow, in the last of our series, we’ll look at the “caution” in all this, what to expect, and a possible silver lining for Rota and Tinian.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle, Jr.
San Jose, Tinian and
Winter Haven, FL

CHILD

From Page 10

was filed and the date it was approved from the beneficiary’s age at the time a visa becomes available. If the result reduces beneficiary’s age to something less than 21 as of the date the visa is available, and if the beneficiary “has sought to acquire” permanent resident status within one year of that date, then the beneficiary remains a “child” for immigration purposes, and the application can be processed immediately.

If after subtraction the beneficiary’s adjusted age is still over 21, the beneficiary is not considered a child. His is or her application is automatically converted to the appropriate alternative category (such as unmarried adult child of a U.S. citizen or permanent resident), but keeps the original priority date.

Which beneficiaries benefit?

Sounds simple, doesn’t it? And it is simple enough, if you are the primary beneficiary of a petition by a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and you aged out—turned 21—while waiting for your number to come up.

But it’s not so simple for derivative beneficiaries. In your case, for example, your father was the principal beneficiary and you were the derivative. You father was either in the first family category (F1) as an unmarried adult son of a U.S. citizen or, if he was married when the petition was filed, he was in the third family category (F3). As his unmarried minor child, you were entitled to the same status as your father. By the time he got his green card, however, you were 23. The CSPA says we subtract the year it took the old INS to approve the I-130, but that only reduced your age to 22, and you had aged out.

The CSPA also says that if have aged out you are automatically converted to another category, keeping your original priority date. But the available categories are F1 and F3 (see above), F2A (immediate relative of permanent resident), F2B (unmarried adult son or daughter of permanent resident) and F4 (brothers and sister of adult U.S. citizens). There is no category for “grandchild of a U.S. citizen.”

You do qualify as your father’s F2B—adult son of a permanent resident—but under USCIS’ current interpretation of the law, you started all over again with a new priority date when your father filed his I-130 petition for you. An important case strikingly similar to yours, *Matter of Wang* (available in PDF format at <http://tinyurl.com/2d5ttzt>), was decided by the Board of Immigration Appeals, or BIA, in June 2009, and is an issue in the *Cuellar de Osorio* case.

Wang’s aunt, a U.S. citizen, filed an I-130 for Wang’s father in category F4, in 1992; the petition was approved just two months later. Wang was 10 years old then. In 2005, when Wang was 23, her father’s visa became available, and he became a permanent resident. Wang had aged out, and there is no preference category for “nieces and nephews of U.S. citizens.” Her father did what yours did: he filed for Wang in the appropriate category of F2B, but asked that her 1992 priority date be preserved, which would have meant almost immediate visa availability for her. USCIS insisted that Wang’s priority date was in 2006, when her father filed, and the family appealed. The BIA held against Wang, reasoning that her 1992 priority date could not be preserved because there is no niece category, and that the date could not be transferred to a petition by a different petitioner.

Although *Matter of Wang* has been seriously criticized by immigration practitioners (for example, the very articulate August 2010 article by Carl Shusterman, quoted at the beginning of this article and available at <http://tinyurl.com/2wyptfl>), it has already been followed by district courts in the Second, Third, Ninth and Eleventh Circuits. The *Cuellar de Osorio* appeal in the Ninth Circuit, and appeals pending in the Second and Fifth circuits, challenge the BIA’s reasoning in *Matter of Wang*. If these appeals succeed, then you should be able to use your original priority date and be on the fast track to permanent residence. If not, it’s back to the Visa Bulletin and a long wait.

The December Visa Bulletin: A big step back

In the past few months we have been marveling at the rapid advances in priority dates shown in the monthly Visa Bulletin. But now the December Bulletin is out (and available at <http://tinyurl.com/3672mbq>), and it shows a big setback, if you are a Philippine citizen, for categories F2B, F3 and F4. Here’s the family preference category chart December Bulletin:

Family	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	15FEB06	15FEB06	01JUN04	15FEB06	01JAN93	01APR97
2A	01AUG10	01AUG10	01AUG10	01AUG10	01MAR10	01AUG10
2B	01JUN05	01JUN05	01JAN02	01JUN05	22JUN92	01MAR00
3rd	01JUN02	01JUN02	01JUN02	01JUN02	22OCT92	01JUL92
4th	01JAN02	01JAN02	01JAN02	01JAN02	22DEC95	01JAN88

The news is still good for category F2A, immediate relatives of permanent residents, who advanced, for the most part, another month forward, and for category F1, who are holding without going backward. But if you are a Philippine citizen in any of the remaining three categories, the priority dates actually went backward between two and three years, wiping out most if not all of the gains since December 2009. December’s chart also adds a new backlogged country, the Dominican Republic. If you want to compare prior Visa Bulletins, they are available back to April 2002 at <http://tinyurl.com/34hf47b>.

Today’s column has been a very rapid tour through a rather complex subject. We are monitoring the *Cuellar de Osorio* appeal, which is now ready for oral argument, and will report later.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@opticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

TRAINING

From Page 10

K-12 student achievement. The state also asks new teachers to rate how well their teacher education programs prepared them for their first year of teaching.

In California, the Cal State system voluntarily surveys program graduates about the quality of their preparation, both at graduation time and during their first year of teaching. The university system also surveys the employers and supervisors of graduates and works with several large districts to determine whether the graduates of

some programs are more effective teachers than others.

Beyond just collecting this type of data, states should ensure that universities use it to improve teacher preparation programs. This will look different at every college, but for starters it could include tightening standards for program entry and exit. Programs should also focus more on clinical training, and universities should dedicate more tuition revenue to teacher preparation instead of treating the training programs like cash cows to finance other priorities. School districts should carefully collect data on how a program’s graduates perform in the classroom. And if, year after year, the data show dismal results for particular teacher preparation programs, then it’s fair for the state to shut them down, as U.S. Secre-

tary of Education Arne Duncan has said should be done.






But again, as with teachers, getting rid of a few bad programs isn’t nearly as important as strengthening the programs that will continue to educate our teachers. With unemployment so high, it may be hard to imagine a time when many more new teachers will be needed, but as baby boomers retire over the coming decade, we’ll need new teachers. And for the sake of children, we need people who are ready for the job on Day One.

Camille Esch is director of the California Education Program at the New America Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy think tank. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

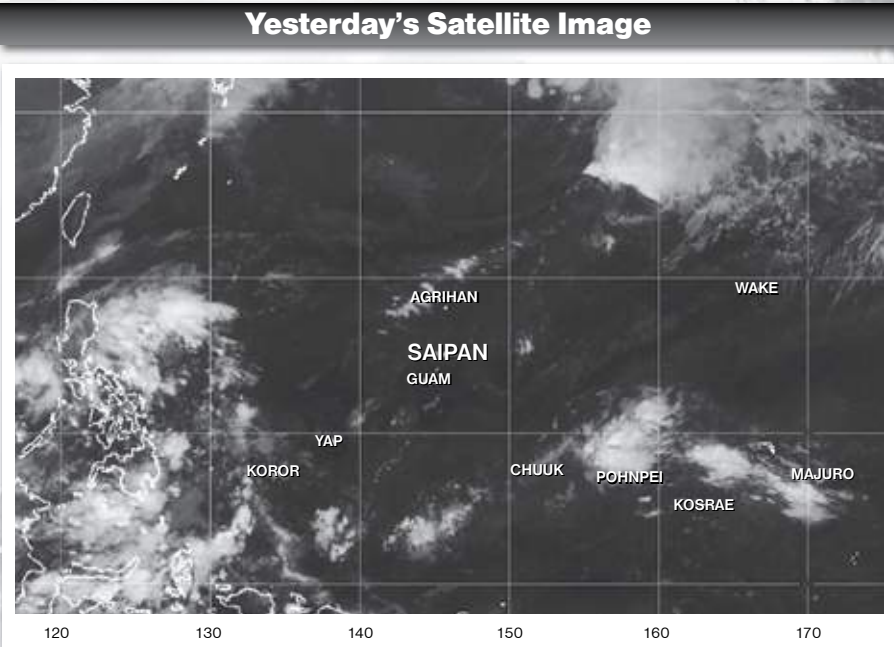
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼80
Palau	Rain	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼74

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲68 ▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲46 ▼24
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲77 ▼57
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲43 ▼34
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲59 ▼46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼62
Miami	Showers	▲81 ▼67
New York	Showers	▲65 ▼42
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲59 ▼45
Paris	Showers	▲45 ▼34
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼48
Rome	Showers	▲60 ▼45
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲32 ▼22
San Francisco	Rain	▲56 ▼43
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▼36
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲56 ▼45
Washington, DC	Showers	▲69 ▼46

Tides				
Saipan Harbor				
2:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
9:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
2:51 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
7:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N147E to 22N135E. A few showers and thunderstorms are found within 60 miles of a line from 25N152E to 20N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are being generated east of a trough near the Philippines. Showers and thunderstorms are found west of a line extending from 14N130E to 6N141E to EQ and 137E. This area includes Palau. A weak trough extends northeastward from 4N142E to 11N146E. A few showers and thunderstorms exist east of Yap within an area bounded by a line from 9N142E to 2N147E to 6N151E to 10N145E back to 9N142E. Another trough between Pohnpei and Chuuk extends northeastward from 5N156E to 13N161E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are found in an area bounded by a line from 9N151E to 5N155E to 6N163E to 14N161E back to 9N151E. This area includes Chuuk and Pohnpei. A trade-wind disturbance is producing widely scattered showers across Kwajalein and Majuro between 5N and 11N from 166E to 175E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:23 AM	5:44 PM	Today	7:01 PM	7:30 AM
Wednesday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM	Wednesday	7:59 PM	8:26 AM
Thursday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM	Thursday	8:59 PM	9:20 AM
Friday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM	Friday	9:58 PM	10:11 AM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM	Saturday	10:56 PM	10:59 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM				
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
GUAM-SAIPAN				
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6	
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily	
DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily	
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily	
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7	
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT	
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau	
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau	
PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM	
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM	
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM	
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM	
HONG KONG-SAIPAN				
OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				


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- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
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Business

Ireland swallows bitter pill, asks EU for loan

DUBLIN (AP)—Debt-crippled Ireland formally applied Sunday for a massive EU-IMF loan to stem the flight of capital from its banks, joining Greece in a step unthinkable only a few years ago when Ireland was a booming Celtic Tiger and the economic envy of Europe.

European Union finance ministers quickly agreed in principle to the bailout, saying it “is warranted to safeguard financial stability in the EU and euro area.” But all sides said further weeks of negotiations loomed to define the fund’s terms, conditions and precise size.

Ireland’s crisis, set off by its foundering banks, drove up borrowing costs not only for Ireland but for other weak links in the eurozone such as

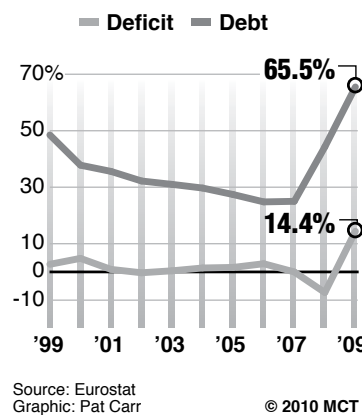
Spain and Portugal. Ireland’s agreement takes some pressure off those countries, but they still may end up needing bailouts of their own.

The European Central Bank—which oversees monetary policy for the 16-nation eurozone and first raised alarm bells about a renewed cash crisis in Dublin banks—said the aid would “contribute to ensuring the stability of the Irish banking system.” Sweden and Britain, not members of the euro currency, said they also were willing to provide bilateral loans to Ireland.

Irish Finance Minister Brian Lenihan spent much of Sunday talking to other eurozone financial chiefs about conditions they would place

Ireland's fiscal crisis

Once a fiscal powerhouse, Ireland is now facing mounting debt. Ireland's deficit (annual budget overruns) and government debt, as a percentage of GDP:



on the emergency aid package taking shape.

Lenihan said Ireland needed less than euro100 billion (\$140 billion) to use as a credit line for its state-backed banks, which are losing deposits and struggling to borrow funds on open markets. He said the loan facility could last anywhere from three to nine years.

International Monetary Fund director Dominique Strauss-Kahn said his organization “stands ready to join this effort, including through a multiyear loan.” He said IMF experts already in Dublin would “hold swift discussions on an economic program with the Irish authorities, the European Commission, and the European Central Bank.”

Ireland has been brought to the brink of bankruptcy by its fateful 2008 decision to insure its banks against all losses—a bill that is swelling beyond euro50 billion (\$69 billion) and driving Ireland’s deficit into uncharted territory.

The country had long resisted a bailout, but Lenihan said it was now painfully clear that Ireland needed “financial firepower” immediately to complement its own cutthroat plans for recovery.

This country of 4.5 million now faces at least four more years of deep budget cuts and tax hikes totaling at least euro15 billion (\$20.5 billion) just to get its deficit—bloated this year to a European record of 32 percent of GDP—back

to the eurozone’s limit of 3 percent by 2014.

The European Central Bank and other eurozone members had been pressing behind the scenes for Ireland—long struggling to come to grips with the true scale of its banking losses—to accept a bailout that would reassure investors the country won’t, and can’t, go bankrupt.

The economically struggling governments of Spain and Portugal, in particular, had criticized Ireland’s recent determination to keep going it alone. Ireland’s inability to stop its financial bleeding has fueled investor fears of wider eurozone defaults and driven up those countries’ borrowing costs on bond markets.

TSA chief: Screening should be minimally invasive

WASHINGTON (AP)—The head of the agency responsible for airport security, facing protests from travelers and pressure from the White House, appeared to give ground Sunday on his position that there would be no change in policies regarding invasive passenger screening procedures.

Transportation Security Administration head John Pistole said in a statement that the agency would work to make screening methods “as minimally invasive as possible,” although he gave no indication that screening changes were imminent.

The statement came just hours after Pistole, in a TV interview, said that while the full-body scans and pat-downs could be intrusive and uncomfortable, the high threat level required their use. “No, we’re not changing the policies,” he told CNN’s “State of the Union.”

Pistole said that, as in all nationwide security programs, “there is a continual process of

refinement and adjustment to ensure that best practices are applied.”

Still, he pointed to the alleged attempt by a Nigerian with explosives in his underwear to try to bring down an Amsterdam-to-Detroit flight last Christmas. “We all wish we lived in a world where security procedures at airports weren’t necessary,” Pistole said, “but that just isn’t the case.”

In his earlier TV appearance, Pistole appeared to shrug off statements by President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that the agency would look for ways to alter screening techniques that some passengers say are invasions of privacy.

Obama said in Lisbon on Saturday that he had asked TSA officials whether there’s a less intrusive way to ensure travel safety. “I understand people’s frustrations,” he said, adding that he had told the TSA that “you have

to constantly refine and measure whether what we’re doing is the only way to assure the American people’s safety.”

Clinton, appearing Sunday on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” said she thought “everyone, including our security experts, are looking for ways to diminish the impact on the traveling public” and that “striking the right balance is what this is about.”

She, for one, wouldn’t like to submit to a security pat-down.

“Not if I could avoid it. No. I mean, who would?” Clinton told CBS’ “Face the Nation” in an interview broadcast Sunday.

“Clearly it’s invasive, it’s not comfortable,” Pistole said of the scans and pat-downs during the TV interview. But, he added, “if we are to detect terrorists, who have again proven innovative and creative in their design and implementation of bombs that are going to blow up airplanes and kill people, then we have to do something that prevents that.”



Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen, left, and The Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan speak to the media at government buildings, Dublin, Ireland, Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010.

BP claims a gamble: Get check now, risk less later

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss. (AP)—Fishermen and business owners stung by a summer of lost revenue from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill have until Wednesday to file their compensation claims for short-term damages, and then they have to ask themselves: Do I feel lucky?

Many will eventually be offered a final settlement from BP PLC’s compensation fund—but accepting that check is a gamble. To cash it, they’ll have to sign away their right to ever sue the oil giant and let a court decide how much they’re owed. And if the long-term damages end up amounting to more than the settlement, they’ll be out of luck for additional payments to cover those future losses.

They also could wait and risk getting an even lower settlement offer later if the shrimp, oyster, crab and fish industries rebound faster than expected, and tourists return in droves.

The fund’s czar, attorney Kenneth Feinberg, said he will be offering “generous” settle-

ment checks with the goal of keeping people out of court, but they don’t have to accept the offer now. The Gulf Coast Claims Facility, set up to dole out the money, will be around until August of 2013.

However, Feinberg warns, they could end up with a much smaller check later.

“If they decide a year from now, I’ll take the final payment, they’re going to have to show prospective damage,” Feinberg said in a recent interview. “But my offer may not be available to them a year from now if everything is back to normal.”

If victims want more time to think about it, they can opt for interim payments by submitting a new claim for damages every three months over the next three years. That would still leave them with the option to sue BP. But they’ll have to continue to prove their losses, and their final settlement offer may shrink with each passing day.

Mississippi seafood processor Keath Ladner said the structure of the program is

forcing people “to gamble on our livelihoods.”

The compensation fund has so far paid out nearly \$2 billion, and Feinberg said about 80 percent of business claims have been paid in full.

However, many business owners with larger claims, over \$100,000 and up to several million, say they are getting short-changed or that their requests simply haven’t been paid at all. Even the Justice Department has told Feinberg to speed up the claims process and be more transparent about how the cases are being evaluated.

Ladner, who employs about 70 boats and is one of the largest processors in the state, hasn’t opened his shop since the April 20 oil rig explosion that spewed more than 170 million gallons of oil into the sea and killed 11 workers. He hasn’t had the product or the work force to make the business profitable, and he said no national buyers want his seafood because of the lingering misperception that it’s tainted by oil.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Weak world economy cuts carbon pollution last year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Here’s one plus from the global economic recession: Carbon dioxide pollution last year dropped for the first time in a decade. But it didn’t last and it wasn’t as big a drop as expected. Burning fossil fuels to power factories, cars and airplanes spews out greenhouse gases that warm the world. But during the economic downturn, some factories shut down and people didn’t drive or fly as much. The helped drop emissions about 1.3 percent from 2008 to 2009, according to a study published Sunday in the journal Nature Geoscience.

Contract talks extended for some postal workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Negotiators for the United States Postal Service and the American Postal Workers Union agreed early Sunday to extend contract talks until noon Tuesday. However talks with a second union, the National

Rural Letter Carriers Association, ended in an impasse at midnight Saturday. The next step will likely be sending the matter to a third party arbitrator to hammer out contract terms and work rules. The employees of both unions will continue to work under the terms their expired contracts. Federal law prohibits postal workers from striking when negotiations stall.

NY-to-Moscow jet returns safely after engine fails

NEW YORK (AP)—A Moscow-bound flight carrying about 200 people returned safely to John F. Kennedy International Airport after an engine failed Sunday night, authorities said. No one was injured. Delta Flight 30 reported one engine had failed shortly after takeoff, said Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Laura Brown. The plane departed at about 4:40 p.m. with 193 passengers and 11 crew members, Delta Air Lines said. The plane dumped fuel before landing back in New York at about 5:50 p.m., Brown said.

Nation

Police: Deaths of Fla. mom, 3 kids are homicides

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—The deaths of a young mother and her three small children whose bodies were found in their home are homicides, police said Sunday. Autopsies were completed Sunday and authorities are looking for information on anyone who may have wanted to harm the family, said Tallahassee police spokesman David McCranie. Police refused to release the autopsy results or how the victims died because making those details public might hurt the investigation, Tallahassee Police Chief Dennis Jones said.

Police said the victims are 27-year-old Brandi Peters, her 6-year-old twin daughters, Tamiyah and Taniyah Peters, and 3-year-old son, Jovante Segura.

Cedrica Smith, who lives across the street, said her



A Tallahassee investigator lifts police tape to pass under at a home where a woman and three children were slain on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010 in Tallahassee, Fla.

Believers find mixed blessings in Pope's comments

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Some Catholic believers in the Americas greeted Pope Benedict XVI's comments on condoms as a sign that the church was stepping into the modern debate in the fight against AIDS, though the church was adamant Sunday that nothing has changed in its views banning contraception.

Churchgoers had praise and wariness for the pope's comments that condoms could be morally justified in some limited situations, such as for male prostitutes wanting to prevent the spread of HIV.

Others cautioned it could open a doctrinal Pandora's box. And the exact meaning of what the pope said was still up for interpretation.

"That's a theological mind trap," said Wendy Lasekan, a 47-year-old stay-at-home mom, after Sunday morning Mass at Saint Michael Catholic Church in Worthington, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus.

"In some cases, it would be justifiable—or acceptable—to use a condom," she said. "If your goal would be to prevent the spread of AIDS, that would be a charitable act."

Ellen Reik, a 79-year-old retired housewife who attended Saint Michael, said if taken out of context, the pope's remarks could renew the debate over the morality of birth control—both as a contraceptive and a means to curb the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Several more believers who spoke to The Associated Press following Sunday services in the United States and South America felt the pope's comments marked a tentative step into a more modern stance in the global fight against AIDS.



Matthew Alexander worships during mass at St. Dominic's Catholic Church on Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010, in San Francisco.

Jean Jasman, an 81-year-old state worker from Montpelier, Vt., called the stance a departure from church doctrine on condom use, "but it's to the betterment of humanity, if we can help prevent the spread of this horrendous disease."

Lois Breaux rolled her eyes when asked about the Pope's statements as she was leaving Mass at St. Kieran Church in the Coconut Grove neighborhood of Miami.

"About time—and it wasn't enough," she said. "As a Catholic, they need to recognize this is an epidemic. The church needs to stand up and say what he did, but he should have gone further."

Vatican officials strongly emphasized Sunday that the church's position on contraception has not changed.

The pope spoke in an interview given to a German journalist. Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano on Saturday published excerpts from the book, "Light of the World," three days ahead of publication. In the interview, Benedict says that in certain cases, such as for a male prostitute, condom use could be a first step in assuming moral responsibility for stemming the spread of the virus that

causes AIDS.

The Holy See's chief spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, stressed that Benedict was not "morally justifying" the unbridled exercise of sexuality and the church's main advice in the fight against AIDS remains the same: promoting sexual abstinence and fidelity among married couples.

The pope's comments caught some followers off-guard with the frank discussion of a taboo topic.

"I was shocked. I thought, 'Why even mention that?' It was unnecessary," said Joan Caron, 86, of Oldtown, Maine, who attended Mass at the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, the nation's oldest Roman Catholic cathedral. "I was just shocked that he'd even bring the word up."

In Brazil, home to more Roman Catholics than any other country, 71-year-old Idalina Fernandes said she thought it was strange when she first heard the news.

"The pope and the church had been criticized for being too strict regarding this subject, but I guess we can't close our eyes to the problems we have today in the world," said Fernandes, who helps organize Masses at a small church in Sao Paulo.

kids often played with the slain children. The twins and the boy had different fathers, Smith said, and neither had been married to Peters.

Jones' statement said the crime scene inside the home just a few miles from the state Capitol was violent. There were no signs of forced entry and a broken front window was the result of police entering, he said.

The crime was reminiscent of a March 2005 slaying in Marianna, about 60 miles west of Tallahassee. In that crime, a 19-year-old mother and her three boys ages 3 weeks to 3

years were killed in the woman's apartment.

The father of two of the boys, Wesley Williams, was sentenced to four life terms in prison for the killings. The woman had been shot, while the boys were bound with duct tape and suffocated.

Burglaries had been a problem in the neighborhood of the slayings, though the crimes had waned with increased police patrols. Authorities hadn't been called to the home before Saturday, when the bodies were found, McCranie said.

The single-story home is

in a subdivision built about five years ago, surrounded by dense woods and not far from the campuses of Florida State University and Florida A&M University. The neighborhood is made up of a lot of families, McCranie said.

"This is a very shocking and unusual case for us," he said.

The bodies were found after police received a suspicious call Saturday morning.

The street reopened in front of the modest, single-story home, which was otherwise quiet on Sunday except for a single police officer standing guard.

N. Calif. cities bring pot growing into the light

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—As numerous cities get set to levy voter-approved taxes on medical marijuana retailers, some municipalities in Northern California are already moving aggressively toward creating government-sanctioned marijuana farms to help supply them.

Cities hope to rake in even more tax revenue from medical marijuana cultivation, which has remained in the shadows although it has been legal in the state since 1996.

On Monday, Oakland will begin the application process for four permits to run industrial-scale marijuana farms within city limits.

In Berkeley, a successful ballot measure to allow medical pot cultivation in industrial zones has would-be growers scrambling to score scarce real estate.

Farther north, the Sonoma County wine country town of Sebastopol passed an ordinance

Tuesday allowing for the creation of two large gardens for medical marijuana dispensaries, and two more "collective" gardens where patients could grow their own.

In Eureka, the Humboldt County seat, a committee is taking applications for four medical marijuana cultivation and processing permits to serve as-yet-unopened dispensaries in the city.

All this is taking place even though the state's medical marijuana laws require any businesses in the medical marijuana trade to operate as nonprofits—and even though the amount of marijuana the cities are authorizing growers to cultivate could net a typical drug trafficker decades in federal prison.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration did not return messages seeking comment on how the agency might respond if the city-approved operations actually started growing pot.

Oakland City Councilmember

Rebecca Kaplan, who co-sponsored that city's cultivation ordinance, said the DEA had contacted her office but only to request copies of the regulations and background materials. She said the agency advised her that they were conducting research into the ways various cities were handling medical marijuana regulation.

"I think that's a very hopeful sign," Kaplan said.

California voters earlier this month rejected a ballot proposition that would have legalized marijuana for recreational use, but the already thriving medical marijuana industry shows few signs of decline.

The state's loose standards for medical marijuana use allow Californians to easily obtain a doctor's recommendation for the drug. Yet the law provides little guidance for how patients or their caregivers can legally cultivate the drug, which has forced growers underground.

ACROSS THE NATION

Rangel's supporters urge 'no' vote on censure

NEW YORK (AP)—Supporters of Rep. Charles Rangel said Sunday that the Democratic lawmaker has been punished enough by the House ethics committee's two-year investigation and should not be censured by the full Congress. "Charlie Rangel is a giant," said former Mayor David Dinkins. "He's a man who has served not only the 15th Congressional District but this city. He's served this nation. There's nothing to be gained by seeking to further humiliate this great man." The House ethics committee voted 9-1 on Thursday to recommend censure for Rangel after the same panel convicted him of 11 violations, including failure to pay taxes on rental income from a villa in the Dominican Republic. Censure is the most serious congressional discipline short of expulsion. The full House is expected to vote after the Thanksgiving break.

St. Louis tops list of most dangerous US cities

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A national study finds St. Louis overtook Camden, N.J., as the nation's most dangerous city in 2009. The study released Sunday by CQ Press found St. Louis had 2,070.1 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, compared with a national average of 429.4. That helped St.

Louis beat out Camden, which topped last year's list and was the most dangerous city for 2003 and 2004. Detroit, Flint, Mich., and Oakland, Calif., rounded out the top five. For the second straight year, the safest city with more than 75,000 residents was Colonie, N.Y. The annual rankings are based on population figures and crime data compiled by the FBI. Some criminologists question the findings, saying the methodology is unfair.

88-year-old man jailed after nursing home shooting

SEAL BEACH, Calif. (AP)—An 86-year-old woman was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head in her bed at a Southern California nursing home Sunday, and her husband of nearly seven decades was found sitting next to her and arrested on suspicion of murder, police said. Reports of gunshots at Country Villa Healthcare Center came at about noon, and within a few minutes officers arrived from the California Highway Patrol, Orange County Sheriff's Department and three local police departments, Seal Beach police Sgt. Steve Bowles said. A tactical team surrounded the facility and soon entered. Inside they found Clara Laird dead of a single gunshot wound to the head, and found her husband Roy Charles Laird in a nearby chair, Bowles said. Officers recovered a .38 caliber revolver from Roy Laird.

Asia

Taliban vows to force NATO out before 2014 pullout

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban on Sunday vowed to force the U.S.-led coalition to abandon Afghanistan before a 2014 date set by the alliance for handing over security responsibility to its allied Afghan forces.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in message e-mailed to the media that NATO will be unable to establish a stable government in Afghanistan by that date. He did not mention an offer from President Hamid Karzai for peace talks and eventual reconciliation—an offer rejected by the hard-line Taliban leadership.

During a weekend summit in Lisbon, Portugal, NATO leaders agreed to begin handing off security responsibility to Afghan security forces in early 2011, with a full transition targeted for the end of 2014. No timetable was set for the gradual transition of Afghanistan's 34 provinces to Afghan control and some foreign troops are expected to remain in a combat role after 2014, although most will be in a training role.

Mujahid said the Taliban "will not remain silent even for a single night until and unless the goal of complete freedom and the formation of an independent government is achieved. They will not wait for the time of implementation of a given decision or timetable of withdrawal." NATO officials have said in

Kabul that the transition will not necessarily mean troops will be withdrawn, but that they could be moved to regions where they are needed.

President Barack Obama has said a decision to withdraw would be conditional on the situation on the ground. In late 2009, Obama had spoken of starting a gradual pullout in July 2011.

Obama last year ordered an additional 30,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan to regain ground lost to the Taliban in the years after the U.S.-led invasion of the country one month after the al-Qaida attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The U.S. has the largest contingent—about 100,000 troops. Troops from other nations number about 40,000.

"In the past nine years, the invaders could not establish any system of governance in Kabul and they will never be able to do so in future," Mujahid said, adding that until 2014 "various untoward and tragic events and battles will take place as a result of this meaningless, imposed and unwinnable war."

A coalition spokesman in Kabul said the surge in troops helped stop the Taliban's momentum in some regions and turn the tide in others.

"With additional forces and resources, we and our Afghan partners have been able to extend our influence to most key



AP
Afghan National Army soldiers patrol as the body of a suspected Taliban fighter, rear, disguised as an Afghan National Army soldier, lies on the road following an attack on the Jalalabad military air base in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010.

Afghan population centers," German Brig. Gen. Josef Blotz said. "Recent developments have shown that progress is possible. Our job now is to build on that progress to increase the momentum that has

been achieved."

There was no mention in the Taliban's message of Karzai's effort to begin peace talks, a step supported by NATO. He recently formed a 70-member High Peace Council to find a political

solution to the insurgency. The Taliban have threatened to kill any of their followers who talk to the government.

The Taliban message had a stridently nationalistic tone. The Taliban have recently been

portraying the U.S. and NATO as neocolonialist powers occupying Afghanistan for material gain—an effort to broaden the appeal of the extremist movement. Mujahid for the first time mentioned that the movement had drafted a comprehensive government policy for Afghanistan should they take control.

In fighting around Afghanistan, NATO says international and Afghan forces killed about 20 insurgents—some of them key Taliban operatives—in a series of attacks over the weekend. NATO said at least 10 were killed in an airstrike against a Taliban command center in the Kajaki district of Helmand, a southern province where most of the fighting is taking place. Five others were killed in fire-fights with NATO forces in the district of Sangin. Most of the forces fighting in Sangin are U.S. Marines. Another five were killed elsewhere, NATO said.

In nearby Kandahar province, meanwhile, a bomb blast killed three Afghan civilians in Shah Wali Kot district, NATO said.

Scientist: NKorea has 'stunning' new nuke facility

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's claim of a new, highly sophisticated uranium enrichment facility could be a ploy to win concessions in nuclear talks or an attempt to bolster leader Kim Jong Il's apparent heir.

But whatever the reason for the revelation, which a seasoned American nuclear scientist called "stunning," it provides a new set of worries for the Obama administration, which is sending its special envoy on North Korea for talks with officials in South Korea, Japan and China this week.

The scientist, Siegfried Hecker, said in a report posted Saturday that he was taken during a recent trip to the North's main Yongbyon atomic complex to a small industrial-scale uranium enrichment facility. It had 2,000 recently completed centrifuges, he said, and the North told him

it was producing low-enriched uranium meant for a new reactor.

Hecker, a former director of the U.S. Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory who is regularly given rare glimpses of the North's secretive nuclear program, said the program had been built in secret and with remarkable speed.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said uranium enrichment activities would violate U.N. resolutions and agreements by North Korea over its nuclear program.

"From my perspective, it's North Korea continuing on a path which is destabilizing for the region. It confirms or validates the concern we've had for years about their enriching



uranium," Mullen, the top U.S. military officer, said on CNN's "State of the Union."

The Obama administration has shunned direct negotiations with North Korea following its nuclear and missile tests last year and in the wake of an international finding that a North Korean torpedo

sank a South Korean warship in March, killing 46 sailors.

North Korea told Hecker it began construction on the centrifuges in April 2009 and finished only a few days before the scientist's Nov. 12 visit.

Hecker said his first glimpse of the North's new centrifuges was "stunning."

"Instead of seeing a few small cascades of centrifuges, which I believed to exist in North Korea, we saw a modern, clean centrifuge plant of more than a thousand centrifuges, all neatly aligned and plumbed below us," wrote Hecker, a Stanford University professor.

Hecker described the control room as "astonishingly modern," writing that, unlike other North Korean facilities, it "would fit into any modern American processing facility."

Experts try to convey danger of Indonesian volcano

MOUNT MERAPI, Indonesia (AP)—The threat from more than 100 volcanos that dot Indonesia is impossible to predict with any precision.

But that's not the hardest part of the job, says Surono, the head of the country's monitoring agency. The hardest part is getting the message out.

In the days before Indonesia's most volatile volcano awakened from four years of dormancy last month, Surono, who, like many Indonesians uses only one name, said he saw indications that Mount Merapi had more energy pent up in it than he had ever seen before.

But it was not forming its typ-

ical lava dome, a glowing red cap that can be seen for miles (kilometers) as magma builds at the summit. In other words, from the villages that cling to its slopes, Merapi didn't look like it was going to blow.

On Oct. 26, a day after Surono put it on its highest alert, Merapi erupted. Ten days later, it expanded its reach, unleashing a surge of gas, rock and other debris totaling 1.7 billion cubic feet (50 million cubic meters), the largest explosion in a century. More than 300 people were killed.

If Surono knew that the biggest eruption in recent memory was imminent, why did the

Nov. 5 blast catch many off guard, cutting people down with searing gases as they tried to flee, charring them in their sleep and destroying whole villages?

The fault seems to lie less in failures of prediction than in failures of communication. Villagers who have lived on the volcano all their lives, whose parents lived on the volcano, too, feel they know it.

And they are, in fact, gifted at reading visual changes in the mountain, a technique also used by scientists, said Radan Sukhyar, head of the Geology Agency and Surono's boss. For example, they may take vol-

canic rock littering a village to mean a blast is coming, and an influx of monkeys and deer from their homes at the peak to mean the area is safe.

But the villagers also believe in something more ephemeral, a sixth sense that may lull them into believing the mountain can be understood and tamed. Surono calls this feeling "voodoo," a mix of animism and the Hindu beliefs that existed before the rise of Islam in Indonesia. He says the job was much more straightforward when he spoke to people living around Mount Sinabung, a volcano that erupted in September on Sumatra island.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Robot to enter NZ mine to take photos, air samples

GREYMOOUTH, New Zealand (AP)—Rescue officials on Monday were preparing to send a high-tech robot into a mine tunnel to transmit pictures and assess toxic gas levels three days after an explosion left 29 miners missing underground. Police superintendent Gary Knowles, the rescue controller, said the New Zealand defense department had upgraded the robot so it would not create a spark and accidentally ignite a fresh explosion in the mine, near Atarau on South Island. But they were still waiting for gas conditions to stabilize further before sending the robot in, Knowles said.

Flood in China coal mine traps 28 workers

BEIJING (AP)—Water flooded a small Chinese coal mine Sunday, trapping 28 people as they did safety work to expand the mine's capacity, an official and state media said. It was the latest mining accident for China, which has the world's deadliest coal mines. Forty-one workers were underground at the Batian mine in the southwestern province of Sichuan at the time, said an official surnamed Xie with the provincial work safety bureau.

Japan justice minister quits over jokes about job

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's justice minister resigned Monday over comments that made light of his duty to respond to questioning in parliament, a blow to the ruling Democratic party as it struggles to keep Japan's fragile economic recovery alive. Minoru Yanagida said Nov. 14 that as justice minister he only needed to remember two comments when facing questions from lawmakers: "I do not comment on specific cases," and "We are dealing with the matter appropriately based on law and evidence."

Hundreds of villagers flee from PH volcano

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Hundreds of villagers fled to safety Sunday after a volcano in the central Philippines belched smoke and ash high into the sky, rousing many from their sleep, officials said. Despite Mount Bulusan's ash explosion, its sixth in recent weeks, there was no danger of an imminent eruption, government volcanologists said.

World

Madagascar PM says mutiny ends without bloodshed

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP)—An attempted coup on this troubled Indian Ocean island has been defused without bloodshed, the Madagascar regime's prime minister said.

Camille Vital told reporters late Saturday that 16 officers surrendered, ending an impasse that began Wednesday when a faction of officers declared they were taking over from Andry Rajoelina. Rajoelina, a former mayor and disc jockey, himself had the military's support when he toppled an elected president last year after months of violent protest.

Earlier Saturday, reporters had seen hundreds of soldiers loyal to Rajoelina converge on a base near the capital's airport where the mutineers were holed up. Officials had said talks were planned, but shots could be heard inside the base.

Col. Julien Ravelomihary, a high-ranking member of the High Transitional Authority's military, told reporters Saturday that mutinous officers were ready to hand themselves over, but some junior officers initially resisted.

Despite the shooting, Vital said: "This crisis ended with the surrender of the mutineers, without bloodshed or threat to human life." He said those who surrendered would face trial.

Also Saturday, police fired tear gas to break up a crowd of several hundred anti-Rajoelina demonstrators in central Antananarivo.

Saturday's protest was led by a mayors' organization that



A government military officer hold a rocket propelled grenade and launcher outside the air-force base near the airport in Antananarivo, Madagascar Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010.

seeks a negotiated resolution to the crisis. Police say they arrested the group's leader. No injuries were reported.

The protesting mayors say they also oppose an electoral plan imposed by Rajoelina.

Wednesday's coup attempt came amid a nationwide vote on Rajoelina's proposed constitution. The vote went ahead, and incomplete results put the 'yes' vote well ahead.

Leaders of Madagascar's neighbors, meeting Saturday at

a regional summit in Botswana, said they did not recognize the referendum as legitimate, and that Rajoelina had been informed of that last month.

On Sunday, Raymond Ranjeva, a lawyer and professor in Madagascar who has served as a judge on the International Court of Justice, told The Associated Press the referendum was a "sad joke" that tested the opinion of very few of the country's citizens.

Ranjeva has called for an in-

Elections confirm popularity of Polish government

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poles voted Sunday in local elections that appeared to reward the government's go-slow approach in trimming the welfare state in the EU's largest new member—the only one in Europe to avoid a recession.

An exit poll released after polls closed Sunday showed the governing party of Civic Platform won nearly 34 percent of votes in provincial assemblies, followed by 27 percent for the country's main opposition party, Law and Justice. Runoff elections in two weeks are still needed to determine the outcome in several mayoral races.

The poll, carried out by the TNS OBOP polling agency, showed the opposition party Democratic Left Alliance winning nearly 16 percent and the Polish People's Party—the junior partner in the government—with 13 percent. The poll, published by the TVN24 station, gave no margin of error.

The results underline the continued popularity of the governing Civic Platform party and its

leader, Prime Minister Donald Tusk. The team has a pro-business philosophy and has privatized some state-run enterprises during its three years at the helm, but overall has not met its promise to trim back the welfare state significantly.

That hesitancy seems to have bolstered the government's popularity because it means Poland has avoided painful cuts during the global economic crisis, also boding well for Civic Platform in national elections next year.

Poland's economy slowed during the financial crisis but the nation was the only one in Europe to avoid a recession, another factor which has given Tusk's governing team a boost.

However, the budget deficit has grown, prompting the government to plan an unpopular 1 percentage point increase in the value added tax to 23 percent on many goods and services.

Due to Europe's economic turmoil and the growing deficit, the government also has postponed plans to adopt the euro currency. Though many busi-

ness owners favor the currency change, many Poles oppose it because they fear it will lead to a rise in prices.

The exit polls underline the secondary role still held by the main opposition group, Law and Justice. The conservative and nationalist party was founded by the late President Lech Kaczynski—who was killed in a plane crash this year—and his twin brother Jaroslaw Kaczynski, who remains its leader.

Kaczynski has clashed with some of his closest party supporters in recent weeks. He has expelled two close aides, and several others have left in protest. The turmoil appears to have weakened the party's support somewhat but not crippled it.

Compared to the last national elections in 2007, which brought Tusk to power, both parties have lost some support. In that vote, Civic Platform won 42 percent and Law and Justice 32 percent.

A national election for parliament must be held by late 2011, but no date has been set.

dependent transitional authority to eventually oversee new elections in Madagascar.

The proposed new charter largely resembles the existing constitution, but states that Rajoelina, the current leader of the so-called High Transitional Authority, would remain in power until a new president is elected. There is

no certainty new elections will be held. The proposed constitution also sets the minimum age to be president at 35 instead of the current 40. Rajoelina is 36.

Since Madagascar gained independence from France in 1960, soldiers have repeatedly meddled in politics.

Most Malagasy, as the na-

tion's people are known, live in poverty, which ecotourism, vanilla production and the recent discovery of oil have done little to alleviate.

Madagascar is famed for its lemurs and other unique wildlife and was the inspiration for two animated films of the same name.

Abbas insists on Jerusalem in settlement freeze

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The Obama administration's troubled attempt to revive Mideast peace talks took another blow Sunday when the Palestinian president rejected the latest U.S. plan to get the sides talking again.

Mahmoud Abbas said a proposed 90-day freeze on Israeli settlement construction wouldn't get him back to the negotiating table unless it includes east Jerusalem, a condition Israel staunchly opposes.

Palestinians claim east Jerusalem for their future capital. For decades, Israel has built Jewish sections around the city's periphery, and about 200,000 Jews live there now. Palestinians consider the large neighborhoods as illegal settlements.

The impasse highlights the gaps the U.S. must bridge—not to just to achieve a peace deal, but even to get the sides to sit down and talk about one.

In Cairo Sunday, Abbas said any construction freeze must include east Jerusalem "first and foremost," along with the West Bank.

"If the moratorium does not apply to all Palestinian territories, including east Jerusalem, we will not accept it," Abbas said after consultations with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

The issue of Israeli settlements has bedeviled the latest round of peace talks since their launch in September.

They broke down three weeks later when a previous 10-month slowdown on West Bank construction expired.

Since then, the U.S. has been pushing Israel to impose a new, 90-day moratorium to draw the Palestinians back to talks. The U.S. hopes the sides can reach a deal on future borders during that time, in effect determining which settlements Israel will get to keep in a peace agreement and defusing the issue of where it can build.

To entice Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's pro-settlement coalition government, the U.S. has offered a fleet of next-generation stealth warplanes and promises to veto anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations.

Speaking to lawmakers from his Likud Party late Sunday, Netanyahu said he was waiting for the U.S. to put the offer in writing so he could bring it before his Cabinet.

Netanyahu also said the proposed 90-day moratorium was not specifically meant to deal with borders.

"There is no such request and there is no such commitment," he said. Instead, the sides would discuss "all topics of substance as a whole."

Cabinet minister Eli Yishai of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish Shas Party, said Shas seeking clarifications from the U.S. that the measure will not apply to east Jerusalem and that the U.S. will

not ask Israel to freeze settlement construction again once the 90 days are up.

The U.S. has been seeking a compromise. American officials said they were not pushing to include east Jerusalem in the new freeze but were also resisting Israel demands to declare the area exempt. They spoke on condition of anonymity because negotiations are ongoing.

East Jerusalem was not officially included in the previous freeze, but Israel quietly curbed new construction there. The U.S. appears to be seeking a similar compromise now.

Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war and immediately annexed the eastern sector—a move the international community has not recognized. Israel now considers east Jerusalem an integral part of its capital, though the Palestinians hope to establish their capital there.

Previous unsuccessful negotiations have included a formula under which Israel would keep the Jewish sections and the Palestinians would receive the Arab areas. Netanyahu has not repeated that formula.

While the Israeli Cabinet met Sunday, hundreds of Jewish settlers—many of them youths who were excused from school and based in—demonstrated against the U.S. plan outside Netanyahu's office. Some held posters accusing Netanyahu of "giving in" to U.S. pressure.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran sets February trial date for 3 Americans

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The lawyer for three Americans facing espionage charges in Iran said Sunday that a new trial date of Feb. 6 has been set but that the judge has refused to allow him to meet with his clients to prepare a defense. The trial was to have started on Nov. 6, but authorities said they delayed it because one of the Americans, who was freed on bail, had not been summoned to return to the country to appear in court. Their lawyer, Masoud Shafiei, said he received an official notification Sunday of the new trial date.

Gates warns anew of fallout if Russia treaty fails

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is sharpening his warnings about consequences for the United States if the Senate fails to approve a new nuclear arms treaty with Russia. Gates had blunt words for Republicans holding up the treaty. Without it, he says, money that Republicans want for a

modernization of U.S. nuclear weapons is "very much at risk." The Pentagon chief also says that if the treaty fails it's a "slam-dunk cinch" that the U.S. will know less and less about Russian nuclear programs, because it won't have inspectors on site.

Tigers could be extinct in 12 years if unprotected

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—Wild tigers could become extinct in 12 years if countries where they still roam fail to take quick action to protect their habitats and step up the fight against poaching, global wildlife experts told a "tiger summit" Sunday. The World Wildlife Fund and other experts say only about 3,200 tigers remain in the wild, a dramatic plunge from an estimated 100,000 a century ago. James Leape, director general of the World Wildlife Fund, told the meeting in St. Petersburg that if the proper protective measures aren't taken, tigers may disappear by 2022, the next Chinese calendar year of the tiger.

Focus

A grope too far: Fliers' anger at TSA boils over

By ADAM GELLER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

How did an agency created to protect the public become the target of so much public scorn?

After nine years of funneling travelers into ever longer lines with orders to have shoes off, sippy cups empty and laptops out for inspection, the most surprising thing about increasingly heated frustration with the federal Transportation Security Administration may be that it took so long to boil over.

Even Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is not subjected to security pat-downs when she travels, understands the public's irritation. She, for one, wouldn't want to go through such scrutiny.

"Not if I could avoid it. No. I mean, who would?" Clinton told CBS' "Face the Nation" in an interview broadcast Sunday.

The agency, a marvel of nearly instant government when it was launched in the fearful months following the 9/11 terror attacks, started out with a strong measure of public goodwill. Americans wanted the assurance of safety when they boarded planes and entrusted the government with the responsibility.

But in episode after episode since then, the TSA has demonstrated a knack for ignoring the basics of customer relations, while struggling with what experts say is an all but impossible task. It must stand as the last line against unknown terror, yet somehow do so without treating everyone from frequent business travelers to the family heading home to visit grandma as a potential terrorist.

The TSA "is not a flier-centered system. It's a terrorist-centered system and the travelers get caught in it," said Paul Light, a professor of public service at New York University who has tracked the agency's effectiveness since its creation.

That built-in conflict is at the heart of a growing backlash against the TSA for ordering travelers to step before a full-body scanner that sees through their clothing, undergo a potentially invasive pat-down or not fly at all.

"After 9/11 people were scared and when people are scared they'll do anything for someone who will make them less scared," said Bruce Schneier, a Minneapolis security technology expert who has long been critical of the TSA. "But ... this is particularly invasive. It's strip-searching. It's body groping. As abhorrent goes, this pegs it."

A traveler in San Diego, John Tyner, has become an Internet hero after resisting both the scan and the pat-down, telling a TSA screener: "If you touch my junk, I'm gonna have you arrested." That has helped ignite a campaign urging people to refuse such searches on Nov. 24, which immediately precedes Thanksgiving and is one of the year's busiest travel days.

The outcry, though, "is symptomatic of a bigger issue," said Geoff Freeman, executive vice president of the U.S. Travel Association, an industry group that says it has received nearly 1,000 calls and e-mails from consumers about the new policy in the last week.

"It's almost as if it's a tipping point," Freeman said. "What we've heard from travelers time and again is that there must be a better way."

Indeed, TSA has a history of stirring public irritation. There was the time in 2004 when Sen. Ted Kennedy complained after being stopped five times while trying to board planes because a name similar to his appeared on the agency's no-fly list. And the time in 2006 when a Maine woman went public with her tale of being ordered by a TSA agent to dump the gel packs she was using to cool bags of breast milk. And the time in 2007, when a Washington, D.C. woman charged that another TSA agent threatened to have her arrested for spilling water out of her child's sippy cup.

TSA denied the last, releasing security camera footage to try and prove its point. But that did little



In this Nov. 17, 2010 file photo, a Transportation Security Administration agent performs an enhanced pat-down on a traveler at a security area at Denver International Airport in Denver.

to offset the agency's longtime struggle to explain itself and win traveler cooperation.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. After Congress approved creation of the agency in late 2001, the TSA grew quickly from just 13 employees in January 2002 to 65,000 a year later. In the first year, agency workers confiscated more than 4.8 million firearms, knives and other prohibited items, according to a report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

But even as the new agency mushroomed, of-

TSA has demonstrated a knack for ignoring the basics of customer relations, while struggling with what experts say is an all but impossible task.

ficials at the top, pressured by airlines worried that tighter security would discourage people from flying, looked to the business world for lessons on systems, efficiency and service.

TSA set up "go teams" pairing government employees with executives from companies including Marriott International Inc., The Walt Disney Co., and Intel Corp., to figure out how to move lines of people through checkpoints efficiently and how to deal with angry travelers.

But the agency was working under what Freeman calls "an unachievable mandate." Congress demanded an agency that eliminated risk. But the risks are always changing, as terrorists devise new methods and government parries. That has led to an agency that is always in crisis mode, constantly adding new

policies designed to respond to the last terror plot.

President Barack Obama says he has pushed the TSA to make sure that it is always reviewing screening processes with actual people in mind. "You have to constantly refine and measure whether what we're doing is the only way to assure the American people's safety," Obama said Saturday. "And you also have to think through, are there ways of doing it that are less intrusive."

Clinton, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," said Sunday she thought "everyone, including our security experts, are looking for ways to diminish the impact on the traveling public."

But John Pistole of the Transportation Security Administration said on CNN's "State of the Union" that the current threat level is too high to lessen the use of full body scans and intimate pat-downs. He said the ingenuity and determination of terrorists trying to bring down an airplane ruled out changes in screening policies.

TSA operates on the belief that a key to foiling terrorists is to keep them guessing, agency watchers say. But it has never really explained that to a flying public that sees never-ending changes in policies covering carry-on liquids, shoes, and printer cartridges as maddening and pointless inconsistency.

"If you ask what its procedures are, how you screen people, its 'I can't tell you that because if the bad guys find out they'll be able to work around the system,'" said Christopher Elliott, an Orlando, Fla.-based consumer advocate specializing in travel. "That's why a lot of what they've done has not really gone over well with air travelers. They perceive it as being heavy-handed and often the screeners come across as being very authoritarian."

Over time, TSA has settled into a pattern of issuing directives with little explanation and expecting they be followed. But increasingly fed-up travelers don't understand the agency's sense of urgency and aren't buying it.

"I don't think the law enforcement approach is going to work with the American public. You've got to explain yourself and reassure people. And

they're not doing it," Light said.

That goes beyond public relations, experts say. As more and more layers are added to air travel security efforts, it creates difficult and potentially unpopular choices. But the TSA has been unwilling to openly discuss how it arrives at policies or to justify the trade-offs, highlighted by its insistence over the need for the scanners.

"They're very expensive and what they (TSA officials) should be able to do is answer if it does reduce the risk, how much does it reduce the risk and is it worth it?" said John Mueller, a professor of political science at Ohio State, who has researched the way society reacts to terrorism.

The pushback against the body scanners and pat-downs shows the agency at its worst, Elliott said, issuing a policy that wasn't properly vetted or explained, but determined to defend it.

Growing dissatisfaction with TSA has even led some airports to consider replacing the agency with private screeners. Such a change is allowed by law, but the contractor must follow all the security procedures mandated by the TSA, including body scans and pat-downs.

But frustration with the TSA was building even before the latest furor. In a December 2007 Associated Press-Ipsos poll asking Americans to rank government agencies, it was as unpopular as the Internal Revenue Service. Even so, a poll earlier this month by CBS News found 81 percent of Americans support the TSA's use of full-body scanners at airports. The poll, conducted Nov. 7-10, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Elliott said that better communication would probably win the TSA more cooperation. But the public irritation suggests that a growing number of consumers, particularly frequent travelers, are questioning the premise at the heart of the agency's existence.

"I think at some point Americans said to themselves, maybe in their collective subconscious... there's a line here where it's not just worth it anymore," he said. "There's a growing sense that that line has been crossed."

Overdrive

2011 Element is, indeed, fit for a dog

By BARRY SPYKER
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Dog fanciers will like the 2011 Honda Element if only because it's all about dogs, right down to the pawprint badge on the side fenders. The doggie package is virtually the only new feature of significance for the Element this year. Unless your dog enjoys his privacy, I'm guessing some pooches will be whining back there in the kennel. But it is still a handy vehicle for dog owners—far better than a sedan's rear seat or even the back of an SUV.

Besides limited window view for the mutt, the kennel height slightly hampers human visibility out the rear window. And if you don't secure and stow everything just right you may hear some rattling back there. Some have complained.

By the way, you don't have to love dogs to love the versatility and convenience of a urethane floor. It's perfect if you tend to haul dirty cargo like topsoil or your brother-in-law. It cleans easy—you can literally just hose it out.

Powered by a 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine, the Element is adequate in power and speed but certainly not dazzling. Its 166 horses and 161 pound-feet of torque lollygags to 60 mph in around 10 seconds. Handling is, well, what do you want from a 3,500-pound box? Besides, you don't want

to bounce Skippy all over the kennel while cornering, do you?

The Element comes with a standard five-speed manual tranny; a five-speed automatic is available. The front-wheel-drive Element (all-wheel-drive is available on higher trim levels) puts in less than impressive mileage figures for a four-cylinder powerplant: 20 city, 25 highway. It's a couple of mpg less for the all-wheel drive version.

The Element seats only four, which does not compare well with its foes. But the legroom and headroom is enormous so those four sit in real comfort. The box does extremely well in crash tests, earning five stars for frontal and side-impact collisions. ABS with brake assist and stability control are standard, and so are front-seat side-impact air bags and side-curtain bags.

Element comes in three trims and the base LX has a decent list of features including full-power accessories, keyless entry and four-speaker audio system. However, the dog package is available only in the next-level EX version. That one also offers 16-inch alloys wheels, removable cooler

box in center console, and seven-speaker audio system with MP3 capability. The sporty SC (street smart) has 18-inch wheels, sport

suspension and copper-colored gauges. No pooch stuff. So is the dog-friendly version, adding about \$1,000 to the bill, worth it?

Skippy: Two big paws up!

Me: This is a handy boxcar for the dog lover, fun and convenient. But you'd better be a dog fanatic because this one's all about the dog.

Skippy: There a problem with that?

NUTS & BOLTS

Price: \$26,295 (EX with 4-wheel-drive, navigation and dog-friendly package)

UNDER THE HOOD

Check battery for fading power

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: Is there a way to know how strong your battery is? The battery in my car is four years old, and I can't recall ever having one last this long before. I'm out and about frequently at night, in some places a breakdown wouldn't be good to have. My brother says just change it, but I can't see spending the money if it's not needed. How long should a battery last?—Susan Perry

ANSWER: It's been my experience most battery failures come on gradually, with some warning. But a surprise failure, while rare, can happen. Symptoms of a tired battery are slow engine cranking first thing on a cold morning or after the dome lights have been left on for perhaps a half-hour. Another symptom is noticeable brightening of headlights just as you accelerate engine speed above idle.

There are two easy-to-perform professional methods that can be used to test a battery. One is a load test. A very large electrical load, simulating up to double that of your starter, is placed on the battery. If battery voltage decreases by only a moderate amount, the battery

has proven itself to be in good or great condition.

Another method is a cell-conductance test, using a Midtronics tester. This is a techie way to check battery cell condition and indicates more precisely if the battery is, say, 60 percent of new capability, or 30 percent. A 60 percent battery would likely have passed the load test, whereas the 30 percent battery would have failed or produced borderline results. Most auto parts stores and repair shops employ one or both of these methods, and a complimentary test is commonly offered. I've found a 30 percent battery may work acceptably well during warm weather but will probably let you down during a cold winter start.

A typical car battery seems to last around four years to seven years. Some time back, a reader told me of reaching 14 years on his Yuasa battery. Likely ways to shorten battery life are deep or frequent rundown, such as leaving headlights on or using accessories when the engine is off, and excessive vibration—proper battery mounting and hold-down straps or clamps are essential. Another way: excessive heat. You can't do much to prevent this; it depends on engine compartment layout.

Keeping the top of the battery clean, keeping terminals clean and tight, refilling water level if possible, and avoiding deep run-downs are some ways you can stretch the life of your battery.

If you should choose to hang in there with a 50 percent battery or less, I'd purchase a decent set of jumper cables or a battery booster pack and learn how to use them before actually needing them. Thicker, more expensive jumper cables are far superior to the cheapies, and one needs to be very careful to observe polarity (+ and -) and any specific vehicle procedures listed in the owner's manual.

Note that the fourth and final jumper cable connection should be a black clamp to engine metal on the non-starting vehicle. This keeps possible sparks away from a freshly charged battery's potentially explosive gasses. Modern vehicles are very fussy about proper jump start procedures, and considerable damage can result if a mistake is made.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.



The 2011 Honda Element offers a rear dog kennel.

MCT

In Celebration of His New Life

JOAQUIN SHIMABUKURO BORJA

also known as

"JOAQUIN MENTAGUA"

Born to life on December 14, 1934 and was called to his eternal life on November 19, 2010

In His New Life; He Now Joins His:

Parents: Lucio Aldan Sr. & Maria DLC. Borja - Aldan

Wife: Maximina SN. Borja

Brother: Antonio Shimabukuro Borja

Sister-in-Law: Petra Hoashi Borja

Sons: Juan SN. Borja

Joaquin SN. Borja

Nephew: Baltazar H. Borja

Niece: Elphidia H. Borja

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of His:

Wife: Erlinda T. Borja

Children & Grandchildren/Great Grandchildren:

Victoria SN. Borja/Gener De Jesus

- Phillip John & Catherine L. Eusebio (John Phillip, Kane Phillip, Ponce Phillip)
- Kimberly Jane B. Eusebio, Krystally Jean Eusebio/Edezer Jr. Arceo (Ponciano Izeah)
- Karen B. Eusebio

Grace T. Borja

Caroline Borja

Annadez T. Borja (Austin Taylor Borja)

Nephews/Nieces and Their Children

- Bernadita H. Borja (Maria, Brent, Herman, Rita)
- Jose H. & Margarita A. Borja (Tina, Maryann, Eric, Michael, Joseph, Sharlene)
- Antonio H. & Rosita SN. Borja (Donna, Trixy, Patrino, Nazario, Antonio, Germaine)
- Joaquin H. Borja (Princess, Jackie, Joaquin, Zoe, Nichole, Baltazar)
- Vicente H. & Marilyn B. Borja (Ian, Vernal, Venuccio, Veronica)
- Rosita H. & Michael Santiago (Shaunna, +Billy Jean, Juanito, Octiviano, Michico)
- † Baltazar & Esperanza Borja (Jeffrey, Eileen, May)
- † Elphidia H. Borja (Rosario, Theodor, Shian, Antonio, Joaquin, Irene)

He will also be missed by numerous Cousins and Friends.

Daily mass of intention is being celebrated at San Jose Catholic Church in Tinian at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Holy Rosary at 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, November 27, 2010, his remains will be escorted to San Jose Catholic Church in Tinian at 7:30 a.m. for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. immediately followed by interment services at San Jose Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase'

The Family

Life & Style

Dong Bei Trek 6: On the rail again

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Willie Nelson's *On the Road again* could very well serve as our background music as we hit the trail again, this time from Shenyang to Heihe by the Amur River that separates China from the Russian Far East.

Being socio-psychologically a voyeur of social systems and human behavior at the foot trail level, we notice things that others more introspectively self-focused could easily miss, or would not use to transparently illuminate their particular situation. The China of our experience is a nation of façade-keeping, with a long tradition of keeping, sustaining, defending, and promoting "face." This is not foreign to us. *Pinoys* worry ceaselessly about "what will people say" (*ano na lang ang sasabihin nila*), that we value social reputation above all else. Sino sense is along the same line, if not the source of the cultural trait. Also, when someone in the CNMI accuses another for an act of disrespect, it invariably is in the same vein. Someone's image has been defaced.

The taxi recording on our way to the station welcomed us and admonished the wearing of seat belts, save that the driver was not wearing his, nor the passenger seats equipped with any. Form dictated that Beijing 2008 (that included Shenyang's hosting of international football) equip taxis with the recording. It did not matter that no one ever seems to wear them privately or in public conveyances. Pretend is a quality of keeping face.

The three escalators in the rail station that carry passengers to the third floor level was full early Sunday morning and we would have enjoyed the Sino ambience better were we not visually assaulted by two three-story-high pictures of Col. Sanders gracing the spaces between the escalating stairs. The *Ken da jie* (KFC) kiosk, of course, waited strategically where the passengers got off.

The Great Malls of China are not havens for *wonton* soup and the *jiao zi* (dumpling) shops; they are beginning to resemble

more the Great Mall of America in Minnesota! Aggressive marketers situated across each other are the trio business concerns of the double arches, the Colonel's chicken, and Pizza Hut. The boutique shops mirror those of any at DFS. These places are where the young and the in-crowd hang out. Chinese commercial taste, in food and attire, is being re-faced. The nouveau riche, not the hoi polloi, are the only ones who can afford these places.

We travel with the majority. Rail is cheap. The combined 16-hour rail ride from Shenyang to Harbin, transferring to another line on to Heihe, costs less than half a Franklin. That's about two taxi rides around Saipan to an unwary tourist on Saipan on a Friday night if one is not on one of Raby Syed's boys! The housing accommodation at the end of the line is easily no more than \$10 per day for a Western com-mo equipped room. Not quite your Holiday Inn ambience but the price at places where the *mein* (noodle) is less than a buck beats anything that the Western prairies of both sides of the border have to offer.

I purchased the sleeper ticket this time since our ordinary seat a few moons back had us captive of the *masa's* deluge at the gate and the stampede to the berths. We lost our assigned seat when we gave in to a housewife's pleading but winsome smile so she can sit with her husband. Our lot improved better this time but I had to do an ugly American scowl when the young lass wanted me to climb up tier-3 berth against my ticket's level one entitlement. There is a limit to international relations that we are willing to countenance, and we are old enough to be able to say "No" to charming chicks!

Picture taking of the various poses of introspection etched on the faces of my fellow passengers would be aesthetically worth the trip. The train passage writ large the life souvenirs that each individual carry in their facial expressions, and were it not too intrusive to point our SLR in their direction, we would be furiously clicking our digital away for archival treasures and



Mo Mo, erstwhile of Tinian and plaintiff v. CNMI for unwarranted incarceration beyond sentence, in her elements in cold Yanbian, Dong Bei, China.

JAIME R. VERGARA

gallery displays. If a picture expresses a thousand words, we would be considered loquacious were we to capture the moods of the passengers, especially in these times of China's rapidly changing economy.

China resents change. The salutation, "May you live in interesting times," is meant as a curse. The word for "interesting times" also means "crisis," and the characters for that is a combination of despair and possibil-

See DONG BEI on next page

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Antonio Ilo Iguel

Better known as "Tonchi"

Born to life on November 20, 1970 and
Was called to his eternal rest on November 20, 2010

In his eternal life he now joins his:

Parents:

†Manases Iguel
†Aurelia Ilo Iguel

Mother-in-law:

†Teresa Rabago Aguon

Daughter:

†Marikita Magdalena Aguon Iguel

Reared Son:

†Ray John I. Blas

Brothers & Sister:

†Juan I. Iguel, †Maria Estella I. Norita,
†Gregorio I. Iguel

Brothers In-Law:

†Joaquin A. Deleon Guerrero
†Manuel L. Norita
†Ratao S. Martin
†Antonio R. Marlik
†Randy S. Gines
†Arthur James Cruz

He will be remembered in the hearts of his:

Wife:

Janet Rabago Aguon Iguel

Children:

Shane Travis A. Iguel, Shana Therese A. Iguel, Aurelia Tonianna A. Iguel,
Marikishalin Learughpiang A. Iguel, Tiauna Rae A. Iguel

Reared Children:

Manaura I. Quichocho and Monalynn I. Santos

Brothers & Sisters:

†Juan I. Iguel/Dolores and Children, Magdalena I. Dlg./†Joaquin and Children, Sylvestre I. Iguel/Escolastica and Children, †Maria Estella I. Norita/†Manuel and Children, †Gregorio I. Iguel and Children, Cynthia I. Martin/†Ratao and Children, Isabel I. Marlik/†Antonio and Children, Anna I. Sarapio/Alkantro and Children, Margarita I. Iguel and Children, Francisco I. Iguel/Moreena and Children, Henry I. Iguel/Elaine and Children, Maria I. Iguel/Johnny and Children, †Antonio I. Iguel, Susana I. Elieisar/Delvin and son, Geraldine I. Gines/†Randy and Children

Father-In-Law:

Santiago Santos Aguon

Step Mother-In-Law:

Lina Aquino Aguon

Brothers and Sisters In-Law:

Juan R. Aguon/Dolores and Children, Marian A. Sablan/Joseph and Children, William R. Aguon/Brenda and Children, Dina R. Aguon and son, George R. Aguon and Children, Patricia A. Cruz/†Arthur and Children, Frances A. Camacho/Sylvan and Children, Jesse R. Aguon/Eleanor and Children, Pia Rose A. Aguon and son

He will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews & friends.

Nightly Mass is being celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at Santa Remedios Parish Church in Tanapag followed by the Holy Rosary.

On Saturday, November 27, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. our beloved will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Funeral Home to Santa Remedios Parish Church in Tanapag for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. followed immediately by interment services at Tanapag Cemetery in Lower Base.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Bieber wins 4 AMAs, including artist of year

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

Justin Bieber's first American Music Awards was perfection.

The 16-year-old teen heartthrob went four-for-four on Sunday night, capturing every award he was nominated for, including the top award of the night, favorite artist. He beat a list that featured veterans Eminem and Usher as well as Katy Perry and Lady Gaga.

Bieber became the youngest person to ever win the trophy. Bieber also won favorite pop/rock album, favorite pop/rock male, and the show's breakthrough artist award.

"I can't stop smiling; this is amazing," Bieber said after he also beat Eminem and Usher for favorite pop/rock male. "Truly I don't know how this is possible because I've been singing Eminem since I was three and Usher is my mentor. So this is big."

Eminem, along with Lady Antebellum, had been the leading nominee with five awards. He didn't come up empty handed though, winning two, along with Usher, who also nabbed a pair. Lady Antebellum took home one.

Other winners included Black Eyed Peas and Taylor Swift, but Sunday's ceremony at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles was as much a showcase for acts with new



Usher, left, and Justin Bieber pose with their awards backstage at the 38th Annual American Music Awards on Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010 in Los Angeles.

AMA VIGNETTES

STARS COLLIDE

Just minutes before the show began, stars, set pieces and show workers literally collided in the wings of the Nokia Theatre stage. Presenter Samuel L. Jackson popped by wearing a black beret, just before Jenny McCarthy, who presented the night's first award, came through in a sparkly, one-shoulder minidress. She held her clutch purse and a script in one hand and checked her updo with the other as a throng of feather-clad, Mohawk-wearing dancers gathered for Rihanna's show-opening performance.

The Barbadian beauty brought up the rear. Wearing a bikini top and a cascade of red curls, she stood still for a last-minute dusting of powder, then climbed an orange construction ladder and perched herself atop the sculptural set. Producer Larry Klein scrambled backstage for a microphone to welcome the crowd inside the theater and fire them up for the performance-packed show.

Miranda Lambert sat patiently in her seat and producer Sean Garrett schmoozed with friends as an announcer's voice boomed: 30 seconds to showtime.

KEEPING IT COOL

An unusually chilly night in downtown Los Angeles night didn't stop the stars from showing a little skin as they arrived for the American Music Awards. Miley Cyrus strutted down the Nokia Theatre's red carpet Sunday evening in a short ruffled gown with a flowing train, while Avril Lavigne rocked a geometric-print minidress, and Julie Benz shined in a strapless black-and-gold number.

"It's cold out here," said crooner John Legend, sporting a suit accented with piping.

Katy Perry was one of the few female artists who covered up on the red carpet. Between interviews, the "California Gurls" singer donned a long

knit coat. She later ditched her entire ensemble when performing "Firework." Perry's male backup dancers ripped off her red gown in the middle of her number to reveal a glittery pantsuit.

FOR THE FANS

Taylor Swift said she only wanted to thank the fans when she accepted her trophy for country female artist at the American Music Awards. Justin Bieber, Lady Antebellum and Michael Buble also gave love to their devotees during their acceptance speeches. But what makes one artist's group of fans any more special than another? The New Kids of the Block have the answer.

"Everyone thinks they have the best fans, but we know we have the best fans," said Donnie Wahlberg before the show.

"Because we're still here," added Joey McIntyre.

SKATING THROUGH

Olympic skater Johnny Weir presented the Latin music award on stage, then came backstage to dish about his latest effort: Serving as a judge on the new ABC show "Skating with the Stars." Weir said he was heading to the competition's production office when the American Music Awards ended to prepare for Monday's premiere. "The set's gorgeous, the music's gorgeous, the costumes are great and the judges are wonderful," he said.

Weir attested that the show's contestants were training hard and that three front-runners had already emerged from the inaugural class of six celebrity skaters. While none will become Olympic contenders, he said they could learn some valuable lessons from skating.

"Skating has taught me so much, and the one thing it's taught me is never be afraid to fall down," he said. "I'm wearing heels and a dress, basically, with this blazer, and I'm not afraid, even if I fall down." (AP)

albums as it was a celebration of the biggest achievers of 2010.

Rihanna, with her hair dyed a ruby red, gave the show a colorful and sexy start, performing a medley of songs from her just released album "Loud," including the No. 1 hit "What's My Name," wearing a bustier and what seemed like a scarf wrapped around her backside.

"This is amazing!" said an exuberant Rihanna, who danced onstage later to receive her award - favorite soul/R&B female. She ended her speech by yelling, "Wassup! Thank you!"

The Black Eyed Peas, winners for favorite pop/rock band, gave a levitating performance, singing from boxes atop the stage during part of their performance of their new single, "The Time."

But some of the prime-time performances were given to acts who weren't nominated, but had albums to promote. Diddy's latest incarnation with the group Diddy-Dirty Money sang material from their upcoming album, while Kid Rock gave a stirring, acoustic performance of "Times Like These," his song lifting up his hometown of Detroit during its recent economic struggles, from his new CD, "Born Free."

A pregnant Pink was among the evening's per-

formance highlights. Unlike recent performances marked by a high-wire act, she stayed close to the ground to perform her latest song, "Raise Your Glass," but thrilled nonetheless with a tightly choreographed, high-energy dance number.

Katy Perry had the evening's most explosive performance as pyrotechnics accentuated her performance of her latest song, "Firework."

Swift, last year's artist of the year, took home favorite country female. Sporting sleek blonde hair instead of her usual cascading curls, Swift said simply: "I just want to thank the fans."

Swift later performed her new single "Back to December," a song she also performed on the CMA Awards earlier in the month, but mixed things up by incorporating some of OneRepublic's "Too Late To Apologize."

Ke\$ha, perhaps trying to make up for the absent Lady Gaga, had the night's most bizarre performance: She performed her heavily Auto-Tuned hit "Take It Off" looking like something out of space, with beams of light for eyes and sporting a motorcycle helmet. She then stripped down to a mirrored outfit, segueing into the next song with a pack of male dancers dressed like her, complete with blond wigs and fishnet stockings.

DONG BEI

From Page 19

ity. Fortune rather than choice is the determining factor.

We are wandering around our Saipan Mo Mo's territory in old Kogoryo. She asked that we cease quoting her thoughts or mentioning her case in our write-ups, and we promised this would be our last. Stephen Woodruff reports that in the last hearing on her case v. CNMI Correction and AG officers for unlawful 88 days of negligent incarceration, the respondents pleaded legal protection from culpability. It appears that government agents routinely allow deportees to wait until it is convenient for them to deport

someone, even without a cursory by your leave.

The matter in her mind has become nothing but a footnote in her fateful sojourn on Saipan. She left on her own volition, though it would have been financially convenient if she waited for the government to deport her. Now, USCIS would be hard put not to let her return should her case require her presence. She feels it is important that the case be pursued to its logical end, but it no longer holds her personal attention as it did when she waited patiently for a year for a legal resolution. Besides, even if the case is adjudicated in her favor, getting the CNMI to pay up is like drawing blood out of green papayas!

She finally got her national

I.D. renewed so she can work and/or travel again. She joined her brother's commercial soup kitchen in Mudanjiang, Heilongjiang; her struggle now is how to get back into the Yanbian rhythm, and get over the delusion of big fast and easy money from her experience with "ice" on Tinian and the adrenalin rush of the baccarat at Dynasty. And that's a bigger entrapment she will have to get out of than the four walls of Susupe's correctional facility. Happily, she no longer just rely on good fortune. She has since learned that she can make choices. Saving face is no longer a priority. Living life as it is given, is.

And the journey journeys on...

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NOW SHOWING



Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows 1

Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun through Tues 1:00 4:00 7:00

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG 13



The Next Three Days

Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sun through Tues 1:25 4:25 7:25

Russel Crowe, Elizabeth Banks
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The final chapter of the Harry Potter saga comes to the screen in this feature adaptation of the popular novel by children's fantasy author J.K. Rowling, with series veterans Steve Kloves and David Yates writing and directing, respectively. The Deathly Hallows will be split up into two films, with Part 2 set for release six months later.

Synopsis

Russell Crowe teams up with Academy Award-winning writer/director Paul Haggis (Crash) and co-star Elizabeth Banks for this Lionsgate thriller concerning a man willing to break his wife out of prison in order to get her out of a murder conviction. Liam Neeson heads up the supporting cast, which includes Brian Dennehy, Olivia Wilde, and RZA.



Skyline

Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun through Tues 1:10 4:10 7:10

Donald Faison, Eric Balfour
Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A series of blindingly bright lights appear all over Los Angeles, mesmerizing the citizens of the city while luring them to an uncertain fate in this sci-fi thriller from sibling filmmakers Greg and Colin Strause. As speculation regarding the origin of the mysterious lights runs rampant, a Los Angeles entrepreneur (Donald Faison), his best friend, Jarrod (Eric Balfour), and Jarrod's frightened girlfriend (Scottie Thompson) struggle to resist temptation as they seek out the source of the luminous threat.



Unstoppable

Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun through Tues 1:05 4:05 7:05

Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Two men are trapped in a runaway train car hurtling down a track. One is a former convict, the other is a police officer. They must work together to stop the train before it reaches a crowded city.



Due Date

Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sun through Tues 1:20 4:20 7:20

Robert Downey, Jr., Zach Galifianakis
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

A man who is a professional liar is hired to impersonate a doctor in order to get into a hospital and see his dying wife. He must navigate a series of obstacles and lies to get to the hospital.

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A man who is a professional liar is hired to impersonate a doctor in order to get into a hospital and see his dying wife. He must navigate a series of obstacles and lies to get to the hospital.

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'Harry Potter' leaps to \$125.1M debut weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harry Potter has cast his biggest box-office spell yet with a franchise record \$125.1 million domestically over opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" also added \$205 million in 54 overseas countries, bringing the film's worldwide total to \$330.1 million.

In terms of domestic revenue, "Deathly Hallows: Part 1" came in ahead of the series' best pre-



Actors, from left, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and Tom Felton attend the premiere of 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1' at Alice Tully Hall on Monday in New York. AP

1. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1," \$125.1 million.
2. "Megamind," \$16.2 million.
3. "Unstoppable," \$13.1 million.
4. "Due Date," \$9.2 million.
5. "The Next Three Days," \$6.8 million.
6. "Morning Glory," \$5.2 million.
7. "Skyline," \$3.4 million.
8. "Red," \$2.5 million.
9. "For Colored Girls," \$2.4 million.
10. "Fair Game," \$1.5 million.

vious debut of \$102.7 million for 2005's "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

But factoring in today's higher admission prices, the latest movie had roughly the same size audience as the franchise's best previous draws—"Goblet of Fire" and 2001's "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," which launched the series. "Deathly Hallows" and those two earlier movies each sold around 16 million tickets in their first weekend.

Overseas markets for "Deathly Hallows" were led by a \$28 million opening in Great Britain, \$21.8 million in Germany, \$14.8 million in Australia, \$14 million in Japan and \$12.3 million in Russia.

The movie audience has grown up along with young wizard Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and his friends Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint). Distributor Warner Bros. reported that 25 percent of the audience for the new movie was between 18 and 34, compared with only 10 percent for "Sorcerer's Stone" nine years ago.

"When we started 'Harry Potter,' basically, the audience was driven to theaters by their parents. Today, those same kids are driv-

ing to the midnight shows themselves," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros.

DreamWorks Animation's "Megamind," the No. 1 movie the previous two weekends, fell to second-place with \$16.2 million, raising its three-week total to \$109.5 million.

Playing in 4,125 theaters domestically, "Deathly Hallows: Part 1" averaged an enormous \$30,332 a cinema. That compared with a \$2,633 average in 2,564 theaters for "The Next Three Days."

The huge opening bodes well for next July's "Deathly Hallows: Part 2," the eighth and final movie based on J.K. Rowling's seven "Harry Potter" novels. The franchise so far has taken in more than \$5.5 billion worldwide.

Warner Bros. plans to release "Deathly Hallows: Part 2" in 3-D, which should give it a big

box-office boost, since theaters charge a few dollars more to see movies projected in 3-D compared with 2-D.

Hollywood is poised for big business over Thanksgiving, one of its busiest weekends.

Revenues should remain strong for "Harry Potter," while studios are delivering a broad range of newcomers with Disney's animated musical "Tangled," featuring the voice of Mandy Moore; Sony's song-and-dance tale "Burlesque," starring Christina Aguilera and Cher; 20th Century Fox's romance "Love & Other Drugs," with Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway; and CBS Films' action thriller "Faster," featuring Dwayne Johnson.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Outgoing wives learn to live with their homebody husbands

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about the letter from "Socially Obligated in Pennsylvania" (Oct. 4), whose fiancé, "Joe," refuses invitations to events from her family. My niece married a well-educated man who is like Joe. They now live an isolated social life and participate in none of the normal family functions that are so important in bringing people together. Their children miss so much.



Dear Abby

My advice to "S.O." would be to rethink the engagement and consider meeting someone who is more socially compatible and less controlling. Marriage is a partnership built on compromise. Joe is uncooperative.

My second husband was like this man. I divorced him. Family meant too much to me.

OLDER AND WISER IN ARIZONA

DEAR OLDER: Thank you for your comments. I heard from many readers who were eager to share what they have learned from living with someone who is uncomfortable in social situations. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Socially Obligated" and her fiancé need counseling to find answers to why he is reluctant to attend her family functions. Is he introverted? Does he suffer from Asperger's syndrome and is unable to feel comfortable in crowds? Could he be depressed? Could there have been an issue that has turned him off to her family?

After seven years together, they need to dig deeper or it will continue to be a problem.

LOUISE IN DAYTON, OHIO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I, too, am married to a man who refuses to do anything with me if anyone else is involved, whether it be church, family or work. He is comfortable with me, and that's it!

We will do things from time to time with family, but he despises it. I feel it's unfair, because I go out of my way to include his relatives in my life. But I knew this about him before we were married.

I have quit making excuses for him and now just explain that he is extremely uncomfortable around people. He has social anxiety and will not likely change. I love him in spite of it, and I make adjustments.

One way I cope is by latching onto someone else in the group so I don't feel left out among the couples present. I engage with nieces and nephews and my widowed mother.

I advise "S.O." to love the man for who he is. Don't try to force him or put him down.

MAKING IT WORK IN THE MIDWEST

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: There could be other explanations for the man's social avoidance. My wife is more social than I. I used to go with her to events that she wanted me to attend. But I noticed that afterward, I would get chewed out—I talked too much or too little, spoke too loudly or couldn't be heard, mixed too much or not enough. In other words, my wife was so socially insecure that no matter how I acted, she took issue.

I finally realized that the problem was hers and not mine. I haven't gone anywhere socially with my wife since 1995 and it has worked out just fine.

STEPHEN IN KENTUCKY

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I come from a large, boisterous, affectionate Italian-Catholic family. My husband grew up an only child in a conservative home. My family gatherings so overwhelmed him that he could only attend one or two per year. I attended the rest alone.

We had many heated arguments about his dislike of my family—until my mother became ill and he watched how we all came together for her care. That's when he came to know and appreciate my family on a different level. Perhaps over time "S.O.'s" fiancé will, too.

MONICA IN SAN CLEMENTE, CALIF.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Socially Obligated" is worried that because her fiancé doesn't show up for her family events, her family may not make the effort for her wedding? She should be worried that HE might be the one who doesn't show up!

JUDY IN OREGON

Barbara Bush: Palin should stay in Alaska

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former first lady Barbara Bush doesn't appear to think much of Sarah Palin's White House aspirations, saying the former Alaska governor should stick to her home state.

In an interview with CNN's Larry King scheduled for airing Monday, Mrs. Bush says she sat next to Palin once and "thought she was beautiful."

The outspoken wife of former President George H.W.

Bush says Palin, who is considering a presidential run in 2012, seems "very happy in Alaska" but then adds, "I hope she'll stay there."

In an excerpt provided by CNN, both Bushes compli-

ment their son, former President George W. Bush, on the success of his recent memoir, "Decision Points."

The former president says his son has "done a good job selling the darn thing."



Lohan

Lovelace not in the stars for Lindsay Lohan

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan won't be playing 1970s porn star Linda Lovelace in "Inferno."

Writer-director Matthew Wilder says his production team is in negotiations with another actress and will make an announcement soon.

Some media reports say the 24-year-old starlet quit to focus on her court-ordered rehab for drug addiction; others say Wilder wanted her replaced.

The "Mean Girls" star is expected to be in rehab in southern California until at least Jan. 3.

The actress has become more

of a tabloid mainstay than box office draw since a pair of high-profile arrests in 2007 led to a drug and drunken driving case. A judge last month ordered Lohan to rehab. It was her fifth time in court since May. The ruling allowed her to avoid a fourth trip to jail.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Gokey helped get 'Idol' to Milwaukee for auditions

APPLETON, Wis. (AP)—Former "American Idol" contestant Danny Gokey says the show's producers told him he was the reason they looked for talent this year in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee native told the Post-Crescent of Appleton he was blown away because he only placed third but he apparently made an impression. Milwaukee auditions were held for the upcoming season last summer and fall. Gokey is nominated for the New/Breakthrough Artist of the Year award at the first American Country Awards on Dec. 6. His debut album, "My Best Days," recorded the highest first-week sales of any debut country male in 18 years.

The 30-year-old says he's performed with Lady Antebellum and Keith Urban and would like to work with Taylor Swift, Carrie Underwood or Tim McGraw. He's appearing Saturday night in Wausau.

Food Network cancels 'Ace of Cakes'

BALTIMORE (AP)—Celebrity baker Duff Goldman hasn't decorated his last elaborate cake, but he no longer has Food Network cameras following his every move. The network confirmed Sunday that it has canceled "Ace of Cakes," the reality show that followed Goldman and the colorful staff of his Baltimore bakery, Charm City Cakes. The network says in a statement that the show's upcoming 10th season,

which begins airing in January, will be its last. "Ace of Cakes" debuted in 2006. The final season will consist of six episodes, bringing the total for the series to 116. Goldman confirmed in a statement on Charm City Cakes' website that the show has been canceled and that production has already wrapped on the final season. Food Network general manager and senior vice president Bob Tuschman says the network is developing new show concepts for Goldman.

Founder of Chicago's DuSable Museum dies

CHICAGO (AP)—A founder of one of the oldest African-American history museums in the country has died. A spokesman for the DuSable Museum

of African American History in Chicago, Raymond Ward, says Margaret Burroughs died in her sleep at her Chicago home Sunday morning. Further details about her death were not immediately available. President Barack Obama said in a statement that Burroughs was "widely admired for her contributions to American culture as an esteemed artist, historian, educator, and mentor." Burroughs founded the museum with her husband and others on Chicago's South Side in 1961. The museum has pieces of art, exhibits on civil rights and a display on Chicago's first black mayor, Harold Washington. It was named after Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, widely regarded as Chicago's first permanent resident

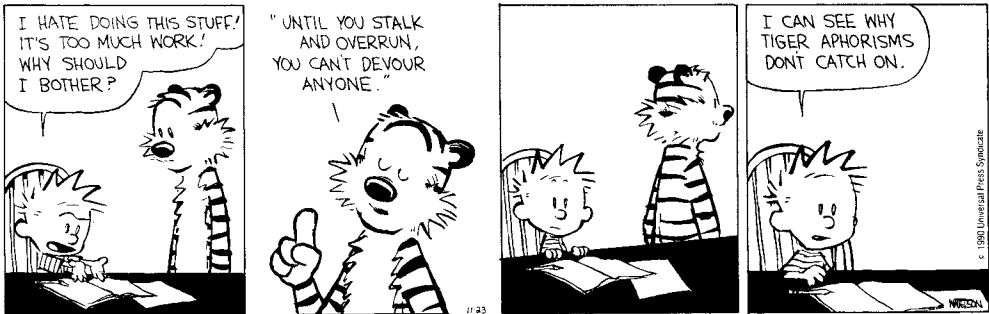
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

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By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Baseball headgear

5 Flaccid

9 That woman

12 Sandwich cookie

13 Declare

14 Massa-chusetts cape

15 Football interplay

17 Carpet

18 Horse of another color?

19 At that point

21 Bewildered

24 Cat call

25 Spiked club

26 Not rigid

30 Blunder

31 French seaport

32 Atmosphere

33 Brownish songbirds

35 Dog bane?

36 Squad

37 Decorates unnecessarily

38 Desert plants

40 — St. Vincent Millay

42 "This tastes awful!"

43 Acquired however possible

48 Sheltered side

49 Grand tale

50 Give a darn

51 1960s hallucinogen

52 Cold and clammy

53 Paradise

2 Curved line

3 Apiece

4 Evening get-together

5 Dalai —

6 Terrible guy?

7 "Family Guy"

8 Alleged purpose

9 Nut

10 Session with a shrink

11 Advant-age

16 Extinct kin of the kiwi

20 — polloi

21 Iowa city

22 Bank bailout acronym

23 Relieved an itch

24 Disarray

26 Gift-tag preposition

27 Kareem, long ago

28 Told a whopper

29 Geological periods

31 Cooked slowly in a closed pot

34 On pension (Abbr.)

35 Husband-to-be

37 Wilde-beest

38 Select from a group

39 Census statistics

40 Ireland

41 Wharf structure

44 Book-keeper (Abbr.)

45 Wander about

46 Before

47 Lair

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 11-23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miley Cyrus, 18; Salli Richardson-Whitfield, 43; Maxwell Caulfield, 51; Bruce Hornsby, 56

Happy Birthday: Much consideration should be taken before you make promises to anyone with the potential to challenge the way you want to live or do business. Stay on guard and keep an open mind and you can manipulate whatever situation you come up against. Creative solutions will be your thing this year, so voice your opinion. Your numbers are 6, 19, 23, 28, 32, 40, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a break, visit a friend or plan a trip that will bring you some peace and happiness. Think about yourself for a change and make decisions that ensure your health and well-being. Success will be yours if you take action now. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have plenty to contend with if you let people from your past interfere with your future. There is lots to deal with but making a financial move based on emotions or upset will not be the way to handle matters. Stay calm. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look out for last-minute changes brought on by someone you least expect. You will have to do some fancy footwork if you want to stay ahead of someone that seems to know your every move. Now is not the time to show hostility. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Plan something special that will enhance your personal relationships. You will learn something valuable and reduce stress if you take a creative seminar. Look at your options for alter-

ing your future. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will get backing from someone who understands your position and can offer useful advice that allows you to express what you have to offer to a targeted market. Don't feel obliged to accept changes that other people make. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Lend a helping hand and you will feel good. Speak from the heart but don't let your passion about something lead you into futile arguments. You have to know where to draw the line. Focus on what you do, not what others do. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can call the shots if you put a little pressure on the people you need to come through for you. It's the end result that will bring you recognition. Stay on top of each and every detail and you will succeed. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Money will matter. Don't overspend. An investment may look good but don't buy into something because of someone else. Invest in your skills and what you have control over. You have more talent than you realize. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Networking will pay off, leading you into a partnership that will help you financially. The people you get to meet through the company you keep will enhance your chance of success. Don't be deterred from attending important functions. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you are too busy taking care of every-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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one else's responsibilities, you will miss out on an opportunity to present and promote what you have to offer. Base your decisions on what's best for you financially and professionally. Face any challenge confidently. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make amazing new contacts if you mingle with people who have common interests. Get involved in something you feel strongly about or enjoy doing and the ideas you come up with will take you forward. There is money to be made. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have trouble sticking to a budget and seeing things clearly. Rely on someone who is practical and will look out for your interests. Overdoing, overreacting and overindulging will all be a problem for you. **

Birthday Baby: You are creative and entrepreneurial. You take pleasure in being part of a team. You are a born leader and a strong contender.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			1				6	8
					3		1	7
			9	5	7	2		
6	9					3	8	
		4				7		
	7	8				6		1
		6	5	3	9			
5	1		8					
7	9				2			

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	9	3	8	4	6	1	7
1	8	7	6	9	5	3	4	2
3	4	6	1	7	2	5	8	9
6	7	5	8	4	3	9	2	1
4	1	2	7	5	9	8	6	3
8	9	3	2	1	6	7	5	4
7	5	8	4	3	1	2	9	6
2	3	4	9	6	8	1	7	5
9	6	1	5	2	7	4	3	8

Difficulty Level ★ 11/22

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TAP DANCING Solution: 8 letters

T	L	F	E	E	E	O	T	E	L	B	U	O	D	R
E	A	S	L	V	C	M	C	L	W	E	A	O	O	T
M	C	C	H	A	O	H	I	O	S	A	G	L	G	E
O	I	A	O	O	P	M	O	T	S	T	L	P	L	E
D	S	K	F	N	U	D	A	K	E	A	A	G	E	F
E	Y	E	L	R	E	T	R	V	N	D	N	S	E	Y
R	H	W	O	N	U	O	I	O	D	I	D	C	H	P
N	P	A	O	E	W	S	I	L	T	N	R	U	I	P
I	H	L	R	T	S	S	E	T	U	N	A	F	W	A
U	O	K	O	U	S	L	A	O	A	T	H	F	I	H
G	O	O	C	E	F	P	S	E	C	P	S	N	S	
N	F	R	F	F	M	A	S	T	E	R	P	G	I	
E	E	O	U	R	E	C	N	A	D	G	A	I	S	R
P	R	H	O	R	N	C	I	P	E	S	J	M	N	I
P	S	E	H	S	U	R	B	S	G	U	H	C	P	G

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Yesterday's Answer: Remains

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• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Sports
28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
Angamwas rules 4-person

Saipan Tribune
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009

\$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
The fate of the \$1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.

Fitial: Ombudsman shouldn't accommodate 'overstayers'

10 DAYS to go before Christmas

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
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Lakers rout Warriors on Gasol's perfect night

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pau Gasol scored 28 points without missing a shot, Kobe Bryant added 20 points and the Los Angeles Lakers took a 30-point lead in the first half of their fourth straight victory, 117-89 over the Golden State Warriors on Sunday night.

Gasol was 10 of 10 from the field and made all eight of his free throws.

Lamar Odom had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who beat their upstate rivals for the 11th straight time, including twice at Staples Center in three weeks. Los Angeles' 12th win in 14 games to open the season was a laughter by halftime, when the Lakers had hit nearly 66 percent of their shots.

Gasol had nine rebounds and five assists before sitting out the fourth quarter during a historically easy night against Golden State's shoddy interior defense.

According to the Lakers, Gasol became just the third player in NBA history with at least 20 points, five rebounds and five assists while making at least five shots and five free throws without a miss.

Why do the Lakers know about that statistical oddity? Because Matt Barnes became the second player to do it two days earlier, scoring 24 points in a perfect performance at Minnesota. Charles Barkley is the only other NBA player to accomplish the feat, doing it during the 1988-89 season.

Dorell Wright scored 16 points on 5-of-17 shooting, and Stephen Curry added 13 in the Warriors' fourth loss in five games. Monta Ellis sat out most of the second half after landing hard on his hip.

New Golden State owner and Hollywood producer Peter Guber watched from courtside, but his franchise remained winless against his hometown team since March 2008.

The Lakers were back in top form in their return from a 3-0 Midwest road trip, improving to 7-1 at home after last week's loss to Phoenix. The Warriors couldn't come close to matching the Suns' 22 3-pointers in



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, left, dunks the ball as forward Pau Gasol of Spain, center and Golden State Warriors point guard Stephen Curry look on during the second half of their NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010, in Los Angeles.

that game, and Golden State wasn't exactly sharp inside the arc, either struggling with 35 percent shooting.

Los Angeles pulled away in the first quarter with an efficient 19-7 run, and the lead ballooned to 69-39 in the final minute before halftime.

Ellis scored five points on 2-of-10 shooting before falling to the court early in the third quarter holding his left hip. The Warriors said he was available to return, but didn't. Golden State rookie guard Jeremy Lin capitalized for a career-high 13 points in 18 minutes.

Raptors 102, Celtics 101

Amir Johnson made two free throws with 2.7 seconds left and Andrea Bargnani scored 29 points as the Toronto Raptors upset Boston 102-101 to end an eight-game losing streak against the Celtics.

Paul Pierce's shot bounced off the rim at the buzzer, giving Toronto its first victory over the Celtics since January 2008.

Johnson had 17 points and 11 rebounds, Sonny Weems added 16 points, and Reggie Evans had 16 rebounds and a season-high nine points for the Raptors, who're on a

Haslem expected to miss several weeks

MIAMI (AP)—Udonis Haslem has played with broken fingers, separated shoulders, illnesses and sprained ankles. So when he needed to be carried to the locker room with his latest injury, the Miami Heat suspected it was bad. They were right.

The Heat are bracing to be without Haslem for several weeks, and possibly a few months, after tests confirmed that Miami's leading rebounder tore a ligament in his left foot during the third quarter of a loss in Memphis on Saturday night. Haslem had an MRI in Miami on Sunday, and will see a specialist on Monday to further diagnose the severity.

"I doubt if he'll miss the year, but let's wait until tomorrow to really get the final determination as to what it is," Heat president Pat Riley told Miami NBC affiliate WTVJ at a fundraising gala hosted by forward Chris Bosh in Miami Beach, Fla. on Sunday night.

Riley also said at the gala that the Heat will need more rebounding, and suggested he may consider some roster moves if necessary.

If the determination is for Haslem to have surgery, which remains an option, he could be sidelined for months. The Heat said they expect to have more information on Monday.

Losing Haslem is the latest blow in an already injury-

marred season for Miami, which was by far the NBA's biggest newsmaker this offseason by landing LeBron James and Bosh to play alongside Dwyane Wade and Haslem.

Mike Miller—one of Haslem's closest friends—will likely be out until at least Christmas with a broken thumb and ligament damage. Wade missed almost the entire preseason with a strained hamstring and now has a sprained left wrist, with his status day-to-day after an MRI on Sunday showed no other major damage. James has dealt with a shin problem for a couple weeks.

Now this.

"You're always going to have to play through adverse situations," Bosh said Saturday night.

When Haslem went down, he immediately began pointing to the inside of his left foot, and was quickly helped into the locker room.

Haslem does not start for the Heat, but losing him for any significant amount of time would be a major blow. He's considered to be Miami's toughest player and Heat coach Erik Spoelstra calls him "the heart and soul" of the Miami locker room.

The best indicator of how valued Haslem is to the Heat is this: A former NBA finals MVP and scoring champion in Wade is also hurt, but Haslem's

injury is considered to be the much-bigger news.

Haslem is averaging 8.0 points and 8.2 rebounds through the season's first 13 games. If the Heat choose to make a roster move to add depth at the power-forward spot, Shavlik Randolph—one of Miami's last cuts during the preseason—may be a possibility. Free-agent big man Erick Dampier was also a consideration for the Heat prior to the season, and may return to their radar quickly now.

Otherwise, the Heat could simply add to Juwan Howard's workload there, or even have James spend time at the position, which he has played before.

Spoelstra said last week, before Haslem got hurt, that he can envision scenarios where James could play power forward. For his part, the two-time reigning NBA MVP has also said he's comfortable enough to play the position if Spoelstra decides to play him there at times.

"I can do that. I've done it in the past in Cleveland... it was a great lineup for us," James said last week. "If (Spoelstra) has it in his back pocket, whenever he decides to pull it out, I'll be ready for it."

Riley suggested that if anyone is capable of a speedier-than-expected comeback, it's Haslem.

"We're dealing with Superman here," Riley said.

three-match winning roll.

Nate Robinson led Boston with a season-high 22 points, and Pierce and Ray Allen each had 19. Boston has lost two straight for the first time this season.

Pistons 115, Wizards 110, OT

At Auburn Hills, Richard Hamilton scored 12 of his 27 points in overtime for Detroit.

Wizards rookie star John Wall missed his fourth straight game because of a sprained left foot. He was on the Wizards' active list, and coach Flip Saunders said before the game that

he hoped to get a few minutes out of him, but Wall ended up watching in street clothes.

Charlie Villanueva added 25 points for Detroit. JaVale McGee had 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Wizards. Gilbert Arenas added 19 points and a career-high 16 assists.

Hornets 75, Kings 71

At Sacramento, David West had 17 points and Trevor Ariza added 16 to help New Orleans improve to an 11-1 win-loss record, matching San Antonio for the best record in the NBA.

Marco Belinelli scored 12 points, and Chris Paul had nine

points and 14 assists for the Hornets, who shot 32 percent and had a season-low point total. New Orleans has won three straight.

Donte Greene had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Sacramento. The Kings have lost nine of their last 10 games.

The Hornets completed a trade Saturday that sent Peja Stojakovic and Jerryd Bayless to Toronto for point guard Jarrett Jack, center David Andersen and guard Marcus Banks. The three new players are expected to join the Hornets on Monday night in Los Angeles for a game against the Clippers.

Source: Mets hire Terry Collins as manager

NEW YORK (AP)—Terry Collins is a major league manager once again, hired by the New York Mets to help revitalize a franchise that has struggled on the field and at the gate.

A person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press of the hire on condition of anonymity Sunday because the two sides were still working

out terms of the contract. The person said an announcement is expected early in the week.

Collins was chosen over a group of finalists that included Wally Backman, Chip Hale and Bob Melvin. He takes over for Jerry Manuel, who was fired along with general manager Omar Minaya in a restructuring of the front office following another dismal season.

The Mets already have hired

Sandy Alderson as their new general manager, and former major league GMs Paul DePodesta and J.P. Ricciardi as his assistants. All of them had input in the decision to hire the 61-year-old Collins, who has not managed in the major leagues in 11 years.

Collins interviewed for the second time with chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon, Alderson and his assistants on Thursday in Orlando, Fla., where

major league owners and GMs were meeting.

The other finalists also were brought in for a second round of interviews.

"It's not just a question of who we are. It's a question of who we want to be as an organization," Alderson said earlier this week. "It was interesting for us to find out whether that vision was shared by others. And in some cases, it might have been con-

firmed. In some cases, it might have caused us to rethink what we had ourselves imagined."

Collins is certainly familiar with the Mets roster after serving as their minor league field coordinator this past season. He also has some experience with the front office, after nearly succeeding Jim Tracy as Los Angeles Dodgers manager five years ago when DePodesta was the club's general manager. That plan fell apart when DePodesta was fired.

Collins also was considered

for the Mets job when Willie Randolph was hired before the 2005 season. He managed the Houston Astros from 1994-96 and the Anaheim Angels from 1997-99, going 444-434 and finishing second in the division five of his six years in charge.

He takes over a Mets franchise that had a \$133 million payroll last season yet finished 79-83, 18 games behind the rival Philadelphia Phillies in the NL East. New York hasn't been to the playoffs since reaching the 2006 NL championship series.

Brady over Manning, Pats beat Colts



FOXBOROUGH, Mass.

(AP)—A little guy who came out of nowhere overshadowed the NFL's biggest stars.

Sure, Tom Brady outdueled Peyton Manning in their annual meeting, a 31-28 New England victory over Indianapolis on Sunday. Yet it was Danny Woodhead, a 5-foot-8 running back from Division II Chadron State, who got most of the attention—if you could find him. The Colts couldn't.

Woodhead, picked up when the Jets cut him in September, scored on a weaving 36-yard burst, showing power, speed and agility. Seconds after his brilliant third-quarter run, Woodhead made a sensational tackle on the ensuing kick return, drawing as many cheers as he did while scooting into the end zone.

"I do everything to make the play, whether I'm a runner, a receiver or on a kickoff," said Woodhead, who kiddingly asked if he could have a step-stool the next time he was required to speak at a podium. "Maybe (I carry) a little chip, but I'm not too worried what everybody thinks about my size, weight or height. My worry is about doing my job, whatever that might be."

His job is being versatile, something his teammates appreciate.

"He can kind of hide behind the guys, but on the special teams that just shows you what type of football player he is," said Deion Branch, who caught seven passes for 70 yards. "He scores a touchdown, comes back in and makes a play on special teams and we needed it at the time."

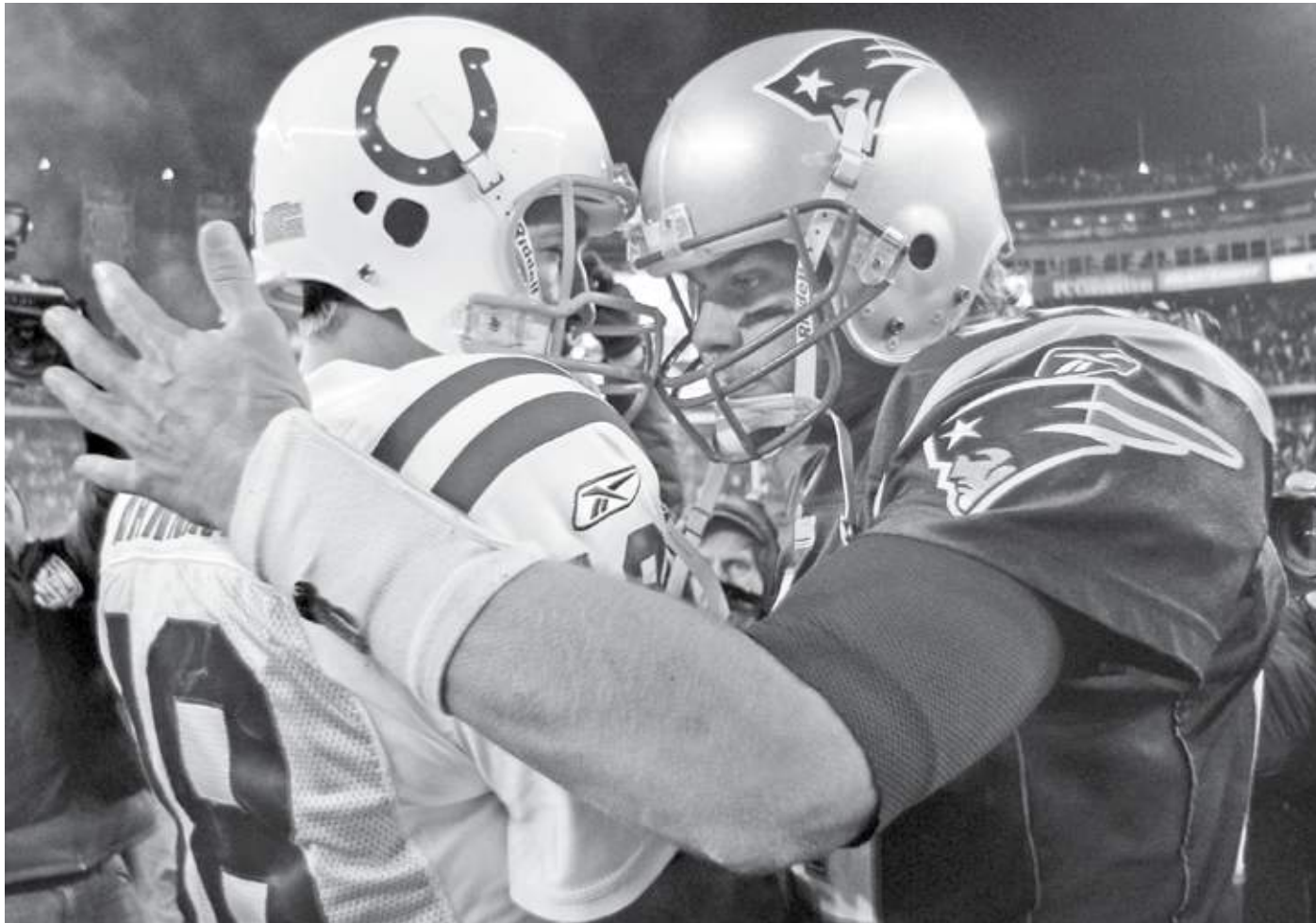
New England also needed Brady's pinpoint passing. He was brilliant for the second straight week, coming off a 350-yard, three-touchdown performance against Pittsburgh. Brady had only six incompletions in 25 passes and threw for two TDs as the Patriots built a 17-point lead and held on.

The win kept the Patriots (8-2) tied with the Jets atop the AFC East; they meet in two weeks.

Brady not only beat four-time MVP Manning, the only other quarterback of the last decade in his class, but tied another QB icon for an NFL mark. Brady has won 25 straight regular-season home starts, equaling Brett Favre's record when he was with Green Bay.

Perfectionist that he is, Brady felt the Patriots let it get too close before James Sanders' interception at the New England 6 with 31 seconds remaining clinched the win.

"Any time you play these guys, you've got to play to the end," Brady said. "Certainly in the fourth quarter we had some opportunities to go up three touchdowns on them, a couple of other third downs which we could've converted."



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, right, gives Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, left, a pat on the back after the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010.

When they didn't, four-time MVP Manning pounced.

"We were in an uptempo mode the last seven minutes," Manning said. "We almost scored three touchdowns. But you're playing against the clock."

Manning blamed himself for the throw that didn't come close to reaching Pierre Garcon before Sanders grabbed it.

"I feel sick about it," he said. "About not extending the game, not executing to give (placekicker Adam) Vinatieri a chance for a field goal. It was a bad throw."

Indy (6-4 and atop the AFC South) had beaten the Patriots in five of the last six matchups. The Colts, who won their first 14 games a year ago en route to the AFC title, are so banged-up—they were without five key players Sunday—that considering them a Super Bowl contender right now might be a reach, even with Manning's magic.

Jets 30, Texans 27

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Antonio Holmes caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Mark Sanchez with 10 seconds left Sunday to lift the New York Jets to a stunning 30-27 comeback victory over the Houston Texans.

After New York blew a 16-point lead in the fourth quarter, the Jets trailed 27-23 with less than a minute left. But Sanchez completed two passes to LaDainian Tomlinson and then had a 42-yard pass to Braylon Edwards with 16 seconds remaining.

On the next play, Sanchez found Holmes streaking into the left corner of the end zone for the winning score. A video replay confirmed that Holmes, whose 37-yard touchdown catch won it in overtime at Cleveland last

week, got both feet in bounds.

It was another heartbreaking loss for the Texans, who fell last week on a desperation heave as time expired at Jacksonville.

Eagles 27, Giants 17

At Philadelphia, LeSean McCoy ran 50 yards for the go-ahead score on a fourth-and-1 late in the fourth quarter, and the Eagles rallied after blowing a 13-point lead.

Michael Vick looked a little more ordinary after a spectacular performance in a 59-28 win over Washington Monday night, but he led the Eagles (7-3) to a comeback win nonetheless, and helped give them sole possession of first place in the NFC East.

Eli Manning threw a pair of touchdown passes to bring New York (6-4) back from a 16-3 deficit. But he lost a fumble after running for a first down on fourth-and-6 with 2:51 left.

Steelers 35, Raiders 3

At Pittsburgh, James Harrison caused two turnovers that Ben Roethlisberger turned into touchdown passes in the Steelers rout.

Harrison led a defense that drove Raiders quarterback Jason Campbell from the game, and finished with five tackles, two sacks, an interception and a forced fumble. The former AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year also was called for a penalty for slamming Campbell to the turf as the quarterback was throwing a pass.

Roethlisberger finished with three TD passes and also ran for one.

Redskins 19, Titans 16 OT

At Nashville, Graham Gano

kicked a 48-yard field goal with 8:17 left in overtime to help Washington end a two-game skid.

The win came on a day when at least seven Redskins went to the sideline with injuries, including Clinton Portis with a re-injured groin.

Gano's winner was his fourth field goal of the game. He also missed two—a 51-yarder to end the first half and a 47-yard attempt at the end of regulation that fell short.

Donovan McNabb was 30 of 50 for 376 yards with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Santana Moss.

Packers 31, Vikings 3

At Minneapolis, Aaron Rodgers threw for 301 yards, with three of his four touchdown passes to Greg Jennings, as Green Bay beat Brett Favre and Minnesota for the second time this season.

The Packers kept pace in the NFC North race with the Chicago Bears and ruined any realistic hope the Vikings had left to give Favre another shot at a playoff run in his 20th NFL season.

Cowboys 35, Lions 19

At Arlington, Bryan McCann grabbed a batted-down punt and returned it 97 yards for a touchdown, Miles Austin had two short touchdown catches and 38-year-old Jon Kitna had a career-best 29-yard TD for Dallas.

Cowboys interim coach Jason Garrett won his home debut and improved to 2-0 since taking over for Wade Phillips. It's the first time all season Dallas won at home, having lost the first four.

The Lions (2-8) lost their 26th straight on the road, extending a woeful NFL record that began

in 2007, when Kitna was their quarterback.

Ravens 37, Panthers 13

At Charlotte, Joe Flacco threw for 301 yards and a touchdown and Baltimore's defense returned consecutive interceptions for TDs in the fourth quarter as the Ravens beat Brian St. Pierre and the Panthers.

The Ravens recovered after a disheartening loss to Atlanta 10 days earlier by finally rattling Carolina's quarterback to break open a surprisingly close game. With Baltimore leading 23-13, Ed Reed picked off St. Pierre, then pitched it to Dawan Landry for a touchdown.

On the next play, St. Pierre was intercepted by Ray Lewis, who rumbled 24 yards for a score.

Bills 49, Bengals 31

At Cincinnati, Ryan Fitzpatrick matched his career high with four touchdown passes during Buffalo's biggest comeback in 13 years.

The Bengals appeared to be in control after Johnathan Joseph's interception return put them ahead 28-7 in the second quarter.

But Steve Johnson caught three touchdown passes, including an 11-yarder that put Buffalo ahead 35-31 early in the fourth quarter. Johnson finished with eight catches for 137 yards.

Jaguars 24, Browns 20

At Jacksonville, Maurice Jones-Drew followed a 75-yard reception with a 1-yard touchdown dive with 1:16 left as Jacksonville overcame six turnovers.

Jones-Drew broke four tackles on a screen pass from David Garrard and weaved his way toward the end zone. Rookie Joe

Haden made a touchdown-saving tackle that ended up taking precious seconds off the clock.

Chiefs 31, Cardinals 13

At Kansas City, Dwayne Bowe caught two touchdown passes, giving him a team-record six straight games with at least one score, as Kansas City remained unbeaten at home.

In his last six games, Bowe has 563 yards receiving and 10 touchdown catches for the Chiefs (6-4). Thomas Jones also had two touchdowns for the Chiefs, who are 5-0 at home and are in sole possession of first place in the AFC West.

Buccaneers 21, 49ers 0

At San Francisco, Josh Freeman threw for 136 yards and two touchdowns and Tampa Bay got its first win at Candlestick Park since 1980 and only second ever.

Nothing fancy was needed for the Bucs (7-3) to end an eight-game losing streak in San Francisco. They were the underdog, no less.

Ronde Barber made his 40th career interception in the fourth quarter, most in Tampa Bay franchise history, to help clinch it. He also became the first player in NFL history to record 40 interceptions and 25 sacks in a career.

LeGarrette Blount ran for 82 yards and 305-pound left tackle Donald Penn made a late 1-yard touchdown catch.

49ers quarterback Troy Smith lost for the first time in three starts.

The Niners were shut out at home for the first time since a 7-0 loss to Atlanta on Oct. 9, 1977.

Saints 34, Seahawks 16

At New Orleans, Drew Brees became New Orleans' all-time completions leader, throwing for four touchdowns in a victory over Seattle.

Brees was 29 of 42 for 382 yards and completed his 1,850th pass as a Saint in the second quarter to break a record held by Archie Manning since 1982.

Brees hit Marques Colston and Robert Meachem twice each for TDs to keep the defending champion Saints (7-3) one game behind NFC South Division leader Atlanta.


Matt Hasselbeck was 32 of 44 for 366 yards, the most yards allowed by New Orleans' top-ranked passing defense this season, but Seattle (5-5) had trouble getting in the end zone. The Seahawks lost two fumbles and had four drives end with field goals.

Falcons 34, Rams 17

At St. Louis, Matt Ryan threw two touchdown passes and directed an offense so dominant that three St. Louis defenders left with cramps in Atlanta's win.

Sam Bradford also had a pair of touchdown passes and set an NFL rookie record with 169 consecutive passes without an interception before William Moore picked off a shovel pass at the 2 with 3:24 to go. That was the clincher for the Falcons (8-2), who won their fourth in a row and ended the Rams' four-game home winning streak.

Mei stands tall in Customer Appreciation 8-ball tourney

 Mei Rengiil stormed through the field to grab the championship of USSP Club's Customer Appreciation 8-Ball Tournament last Nov. 14.

Her win was good for \$135 and a trophy from Pacific Amusement. Ron Chisato took home \$90 and a trophy, with Taylor Watanabe taking the trophy for third place.

Rengiil handed losses to Annie Tesiro, Vince Cabrera, and Watanabe, falling to Chisato in the winners bracket final by scratching after pocketing the 8-ball.

Chisato had beaten Erina Olkeriil and Patrick Cepeda. Cepeda had handed Brenda Rideb a first round loss, Watanabe edged past Simeon Kapileo and Cabrera outlasted John Mongami.

Tesiro handed Mongami his second loss, then fell to Cabrera. Kapileo handled Cabrera, but couldn't get past Cepeda. Olkeriil topped Rideb, but lost to Watanabe, who also eliminated Cepeda.

Rengiil took the loser's bracket final



USS Peleliu Club's Customer Appreciation 8-Ball Tournament champion Mei Rengiil is flanked by third place Taylor Watanabe, left, and Ron Chisato after the competition last Nov. 14.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

from Watanabe with some long shots and excellent cue ball positioning. She continued her topnotch play, earning two close wins from Chisato to snatch the first place trophy.

Special thanks to Pacific Amusement and their staff for the wonderful prize trophies in all of the Customer Appreciation

tournaments and their qualifiers.

Marianas Turkey Shoot tomorrow

USSP Club, meanwhile, is inviting all Saipan cue artists to its 6th Annual Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-Ball Tournament tomorrow, Nov. 24.

Culpepper wins TDHC Texas Hold'em Poker Tourney

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's Raymond Culpepper won \$1,500 for finishing first place in Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament held Saturday night.

Saipan's Manju Hom placed second and took home \$500, Tinian's Ryan Evangelista finished third and

won \$300, Edward Dela Cruz of Tinian finished in fourth place with \$150, and Salam Yuni roughly broke even in fifth place.

The final five competitors played into early Sunday morning.

In related news, around 100 participants are expected to compete on Tinian for Tinian Dynasty's two-day Black Jack Championship set for Dec. 11 and 12.

The Top 7 finishers will receive cash

prizes from a \$70,000 pool; vacancies are still available. The entry fee is \$1,000, which includes two nights stay at Tinian Dynasty, free meals, and beverages during the tournament and roundtrip airfare to and from Saipan. The Top 3 finishers will also receive trophies.

In addition, Tinian Dynasty will also be hosting its Baccarat Challenge after the turn of the year from Jan. 15 to 16.

PINK

From Page 28

The Pink Dynamites added two singles wins to its total in Day 1 of the finals when Omori swept Rick Brien in the men's C2 singles, 3-0, and Hibi edged Edwin Montoya, 2-1, in the men's B1 singles.

Algenio and Obata made it a 4-0 lead when they topped Oh Imbog and Merlie Savellano in the mixed C1-B3 doubles, 2-1.

The Black Hawks then broke into the win column when the tandem of Angie

Ito and Cristy Villafior blanked Labuson and Peraja, 3-0, in the women's B1-B2 doubles.

After Day 1 of the finals, the Pink Dynamites went ahead, 9-5 (sets won).

In Day 2, the Pink Dynamites secured the win and the championship after dropping only one of the five remaining matches.

Lee started the Pink Dynamites' bid in the final day of the championship on Sunday with a 3-0 win over Savellano in the women's B3 singles. Obata also won her women's B2 singles match over Villafior, 3-0, to make it a 6-1 lead and

sealed the win for the Pink Dynamites.

The Pink Dynamites completed their domination of the Black Hawks after sweeping the last two doubles games. Algenio teamed up with Lee and together they slipped past Oh Imbog and Annette Quiambao in the mixed C1-C doubles, 2-1, while Hibi and Omori shut out Brien and Montoya in the men's doubles, 3-0.

The Black Hawks nailed only one win in last Sunday's finale, courtesy of the mixed doubles victory of Rey Bulaon and Ito against Guintu and Peraja, 3-0.

BACK

From Page 28

Hit It gained its second win in six games after juicing out Yo'Face, 46-37.

Hit It's Isaiiah Laniyo was the heavy hitter of the match after earning seven points. He had a goal, one kee, and one

xunk against Yo'Face.

Meanwhile, no regular games in the community league were played last week to give new players time to have a scrimmage against the veterans.

Soul Rebels and Sounders players are playing against newcomers from Salty and Tamino Tigers to let rookies

familiarize themselves with the rules of the indigenous sport on Saipan.

Saipan Rocball creator James Feger said the scrimmages will continue this week during the Safe Haven hours operation at the MHS Gymnasium from 5pm to 7pm before new teams play in regular games this weekend.

JAPANESE

From Page 28

Quinn said.

Russia will be led by former pro Konstantin Fast. The 34-year-old rider used to race for Italian cycling team G.S. 93 OFZ FAAC Electromatic. He is based in Khabarovsk and works at the Russian Ministry of Youth Culture and Sports to promote the sport there.

South Korea will also have pros competing in the Dec. 4 race. The notable ones include 2006 Qatar Asian Games veteran Seong Yoon Choi and former Korea National Team member Seo Joon Yong.

Choi competed in two major races this year and recorded impressive finish in both events. He placed third in the 2010 National Sports Festival and second in the 2010 ACC Track Asian Cup. Yong

also joined the 2010 National Sports Festival and made a record in the race.

In the women's division, South Korea will have Kim Myo Jin, winner of the 2010 70K Tour de DMZ and the KINTEX 77K.

Guam will lean heavily on Jazy Garcia in the men's division and 2009 women's division third placer Chiyo Lombard. Representing the Philippines are several Saipan-based bike

and execution of the URCC was very professional and, if all works out, he is already looking forward to doing it again.

Flores decided he wanted to be a fighter when he was just 13 years old. He took his first fight at age 16 as a 145-lb featherweight.

Over the years Flores moved up to the 155-lb lightweight class, his primary competing weight. He dropped to feath-

erweight after hearing the URCC was looking for a fighter in that class. Before competing in the Philippines, Flores fought off-island once before on Tinian.

Flores resides in San Antonio, where hides out of the limelight to train with his close circle of friends. He practices Vale Tudo, a Brazilian unarmed combat sport meaning "anything goes" or "no rules." He studied Jiu Jitsu under Gracie Baja and received boxing training from local

The entry fee is \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the tournament. This is to encourage early entries so the bracket can be set up before the 7pm start time.

The sponsors for this event are USSP, Pacific Amusement, and Budweiser/Bud Light (MARPA). Prizes include cash for first and second place, trophies for first, second, and third, with a raffle giveaway for cool Bud gear.

There will be a practice tournament this Sunday with a \$10 entry fee. Open 8-ball tournaments will continue on Sundays until the end of the year.

Sign-up starts at 7pm. The winner takes 60 percent of the pot, with 40 percent for second place.

The tournaments are double elimination 8-ball, following BCA rules.

USSP is offering free chasers at 7pm with live music starting at 8 pm every day except Monday and Happy Hour all night Sunday through Thursday.

For more information, please contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. (PR)

The event package also costs \$1,000, which includes entrance into the tournament, two nights stay at the TDHC, free meals, and cocktails during the tournament and roundtrip airfare to and from Saipan.

At least 100 are expected to compete in the Baccarat Challenge, where the cash prizes depend on the size of the overall turnout. Trophies will also be awarded to the Top 3 finishers.

In the battle for third place, Yellow Idols prevailed over the Orange Shuttle Masters, 21-8.

The Yellow Idols won seven of the 10 pairings, taking three games last Saturday and four more last Sunday.

Orange Shuttle Masters and Yellow Idols were relegated to the consolation draw after losing their respective semis pairings. The top-seeded Pink Dynamites whipped the Orange Shuttle Masters in the semifinals, 20-9, while the Black Hawks survived the Yellow Idols, 18-10, in the other semis tiff.

Winner of the community league will then duel the top placer in the high school competition for the overall championship this season.

Games in the high school league are played on weekdays during lunch break, while matches in the community league are set for every Saturday only.

groups, led by Butch Sublemente.

Host CNMI will pin its hopes to Miek Carey, Lewie Tenorio, and other groups of avid bikers.

So far, 60 riders had already registered for next month's race and organizing Pacific Islands Club is expecting the number to double days before the event kicks off.

Registration for the Hell of Marianas is on-going and for more information, call PIC's front desk at 237-5130.

coach Don Rawson in the past. Flores also watches over the Predator Combat Team gym for his friend Charleston "The Predator" Aiken.

Flores is a freshman at Northern Marianas College planning to major in Natural Resources Management and a proud father of his 7-month-year old son, MJ. He maintains an active lifestyle and is open to pretty much all sports such as soccer, basketball, and water sports.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	9	4	.692	
New York	6	8	.429	3 1/2
Toronto	5	9	.357	4 1/2
New Jersey	4	9	.308	5
Philadelphia	3	10	.231	6

Southeast Division

Orlando	9	3	.750	
Atlanta	8	5	.615	1 1/2
Miami	8	5	.615	1 1/2
Charlotte	5	8	.385	4 1/2
Washington	4	8	.333	5

Central Division

Chicago	7	4	.636	
Indiana	5	6	.455	2
Cleveland	5	7	.417	2 1/2
Detroit	5	8	.385	3
Milwaukee	5	8	.385	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	11	1	.917	
San Antonio	11	1	.917	
Dallas	8	4	.667	3
Memphis	5	9	.357	7
Houston	3	9	.250	8

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	9	4	.692	
Utah	9	5	.643	1/2
Portland	8	6	.571	1 1/2
Denver	7	6	.538	2
Minnesota	4	10	.286	5 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	12	2	.857	
Golden State	7	6	.538	4 1/2
Phoenix	6	7	.462	5 1/2
Sacramento	4	8	.333	7
L.A. Clippers	1	13	.071	11

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 102, Boston 101
New Orleans 75, Sacramento 71
Detroit 115, Washington 110, OT
L.A. Lakers 117, Golden State 89

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	8	2	0	.800	238	177
New England	8	2	0	.800	289	242
Miami	5	5	0	.500	172	208
Buffalo	2	8	0	.200	213	276

South

Jacksonville	6	4	0	.600	220	270
Indianapolis	6	4	0	.600	268	216
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	257	198
Houston	4	6	0	.400	244	287

North

Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	233	178
Pittsburgh	7	3	0	.700	235	165
Cleveland	3	7	0	.300	192	206
Cincinnati	2	8	0	.200	215	262

West

Kansas City	6	4	0	.600	243	207
Oakland	5	5	0	.500	238	223
San Diego	4	5	0	.444	239	197
Denver	3	6	0	.333	203	252

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	7	3	0	.700	284	226
N.Y. Giants	6	4	0	.600	253	220
Washington	5	5	0	.500	202	245
Dallas	3	7	0	.300	229	271

South

Atlanta	8	2	0	.800	256	192
New Orleans	7	3	0	.700	235	170
Tampa Bay	7	3	0	.700	209	206
Carolina	1	9	0	.100	117	252

North

Chicago	7	3	0	.700	191	146
Green Bay	7	3	0	.700	252	146
Minnesota	3	7	0	.300	172	226
Detroit	2	8	0	.200	234	237

West

Seattle	5	5	0	.500	185	233
St. Louis	4	6	0	.400	177	198
San Francisco	3	7	0	.300	160	219
Arizona	3	7	0	.300	188	292

Yesterday's Games

Dallas 35, Detroit 19
Pittsburgh 35, Oakland 3
Washington 19, Tennessee 16, OT
N.Y. Jets 30, Houston 27
Buffalo 49, Cincinnati 31
Kansas City 31, Arizona 13
Jacksonville 24, Cleveland 20
Baltimore 37, Carolina 13
Green Bay 31, Minnesota 3
Atlanta 34, St. Louis 17
New Orleans 34, Seattle 19
Tampa Bay 21, San Francisco 0
New England 31, Indianapolis 28
Philadelphia 27, N.Y. Giants 17

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISO Girls Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Kagman's Stacie Mizutani, left, is bumped and fouled by MHS' Jeraldine Castillo.



MHS' Lia Rangamar escapes Kagman's defense for an easy layup.



Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization acting president Nick Gross gets ready to present the championship trophy to the MHS Lady Dolphins, seen here huddling at the center court after beating Kagman High School in last Saturday's finals at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



MHS' Nikita Hofschneider goes for an acrobatic shot during the third quarter of their game against Kagman.



Kagman's Patsylynn Jetley dribbles out of the defense of Lady Dolphins' Jeralyn Castillo.



MHS' Rachel Abrams goes for a running shot.



MHS' Jeralyn Castillo pulls up for a buzzer-beating jumper in the second quarter of their title game against Kagman.



Kagman's Mercedes Mesa dribbles away from the Lady Dolphins' Jeralyn Castillo.



Kagman's Tiana Muna (12) watches her teammates and MHS players battle for the loose ball.



The MHS cheering squad provides support to the Lady Dolphins.



Lakers rout
Warriors on
Gasol's perfect night

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Brady over
Manning, Pats
beat Colts

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28 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pink Dynamites top Traders badminton

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Pink Dynamites caught fire in the championship round of the 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament, scorching the Black Hawks in the finals, 20-9, over the weekend at the REM Center.



The Pink Dynamites woneight of the 10 pairings in the finale to win this year's team tournament. Members of the winning team are Efren Cacdac, Rommel Monserat, Kanata Omori, Joey Algenio, Toshiko Obata, Jerry Hibi, Marlene Peraja, Elma Labuson, So Young Lee, and Dick Guintu.

A 4-1 win in the first part of the championship last Saturday gave the Pink Dynamites the needed boost in the finale.

Cacdac and Monserat had a free ride to victory for the Pink Dynamites' first victory after winning by default against Edwin Maratas and Alvin Alvarez in the men's B2 doubles.

See PINK on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Pink Dynamites' Toshiko Obata returns to the Black Hawks during her and Joey Algenio's doubles game against Oh Imbog and Merlie Savellano in the finals of the Traders Insurance badminton tournament last Saturday at the REM Center.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nate "The Terrible" Flores, left, throws a straight left jab against Eric Kelly in their featherweight title bout during URCC 18: Relentless held last Nov. 13 at the A-Venue of Events Hall in Makati City, Philippines.

URCC offers Flores three-fight contract

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Fresh from an impressive showing against Eric Kelly for the Universal Reality Combat Championship's vacant featherweight title in URCC 18: Relentless, Saipan's Nate "The Terrible" Flores was offered a three-bout contract to compete in the Philippines' largest professional mixed martial arts organization.

"I want to say thank you for all of the fan support... a 19-year-old's dream really can come true. I am interested in the opportunity, but we're still ironing out the details on the technical side. I want to make sure I'm well prepared and I know I got to stay level-headed about the situation," said Flores in a phone interview.

Flores ultimately lost that Nov. 13 bout at the A-Venue of Events Hall in Makati City, Philippines to the Yaw-Yan Ardigma fighter but that

didn't stop URCC's top brass from inking the Predator Combat Team fighter and Konflikt MMA apparel endorser to a contract.

Flores lost via Rear-Naked Choke submission at 2:52 into the first round. The win was the fifth in as many bouts for the Filipino Kelly, while the loss dropped Flores' MMA record to 4-2.

According to URCC's recap of the action, both fighters went after each other immediately. As they felt each other out, Flores showed he had more impressive stand-up skills, but eventually the fighters became caught up in a clinch, where Kelly managed to take Flores down to the mat.

Flores avoided some submission attempts, but Kelly still dealt out ground-and-pound blows until Flores mistakenly showed him his back. Kelly took advantage right away and forced the submission.

See URCC on Page 26



20 Japanese bikers to join Hell of Marianas

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Japan will be well represented in 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race, as it will have 20 riders hitting Saipan road next month.

Japan will be fielding 13 riders in the 100-kilometer individual race, including perennial Saipan races participant Takahiro Ogasawara and a four-person women's crew. Joining the Japanese delegation are two staff from *Funride* and one from *Cyclo wired*, which are both cycling magazines in Japan.

According to Pacific Islands Club's Kanae Quinn, the first

group of Japanese riders will arrive on Saipan on Nov. 30. The last group will be here on Dec. 2, two days before the actual race.

The Japanese riders will be pitted against cyclists from Russia, South Korea, Guam, the Philippines, and host CNMI.

"The Russians are arriving on Nov. 30, while the Koreans will be here on Dec. 1 and 2,"

See JAPANESE on Page 26

Back-to-back wins for Magic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Magic pulled out enough tricks from its sleeves to win two games last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium and keep the lead in the 2010-2011 Rocball High School League.

Magic was first pitted against the Kingz and pulled off an overtime win.

Joemil Lisua led Magic's victory, earning him the heavy hitter of the game award. Lisua scored 12 points off two goals and three kees.

Four days after its meeting with the Kingz, Magic squared off against Hit It and this time Lisua's team swept all three sets of their game for a juiced-out win.

With its back-to-back victories, Magic improved to a 5-1 record, giving them a three-game lead over second-running Kingz and Yo' Face. The Kingz, who handed Magic its lone loss so far in the season, and Yo' Face have identical 2-3 records. Hit It holds a 2-4 mark.

See BACK on Page 26



Joemil Lisua scored 12 points in Magic's win over the Kingz last week during the Rocball high school league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The lead pack in last year's Hell of Marianas race cruises along Koblerville as it heads to the airport road.